

Suggested Duration: 60 minutes

Lesson Objectives

- ▶ To learn what 'community cohesion' means
- ▶ To explore the Islamic teachings regarding living and working with others

Key Words

- ▶ Community, cohesion, unity, differences, cultural, divisive, harmonious

Islamic Values

Islam teaches us to accept that the differences between people are part of God's design for His creation. We should treat others the way we want to be treated.

Citizenship Values

Good citizens accept that all members of society are different and have a responsibility to get along despite their differences.



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M (B)



Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.1001:
Guess the Religion

Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.1002:
Guess the Religion – Answers

Activities

Ask some quick questions to recap the last lesson.

Share the lesson objectives.

A Starter Activity

Imagine you go to a 'rainbow school'. In your class you have Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and some children who do not have a religion.

Ask pupils, in small groups, to list ways to bring them all together and to talk to each other. Take feedback and discuss pupils' ideas.

B Development

Activity 1: Guess the Religion

This activity has been provided courtesy of the IHNA Education Programme, developed by Building Bridges Pendle.

Hand out Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.1001. Ask pupils to work in small groups and try to identify which religion the different characters in the picture belong to.

Take feedback and hand out Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.1002.

Explain that Muslims ruled Spain successfully for hundreds of years and the reason for this success was that the rights of all people were protected. Jews, Christians, Muslims and others could talk, learn, trade and worship freely.

Andalusia was a community which worked closely together in a cohesive way. 'Cohesion' means living and working harmoniously together and accepting and respecting people's differences for the good of all. A good citizen is one who works for a cohesive community.

Activity 2: Islamic Guidance

Ask a pupil to recite the following verses. Explain the meaning.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَى
جَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ
عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

'O Mankind! We created you from a male and a female and We made you into nations and tribes so that you may know each other; the most noble of you in the sight of God is the one who is the most righteous. Indeed God is All-knowing, All-aware.' (Surat al-Hujurat 49:13)

Question 1: What does it mean to 'know each other' and why does the Qur'an encourage us to know each other?

Suggested answer: It is important for us to know each other because ignorance can breed hatred. Knowing someone means that you have some understanding of their culture, their language, their religion and their social habits. In Islam this concept of knowing each other is called Ta`aruf.

Question 2: What is Taqwa?

Suggested answer: The love Muslims feel for God, which helps them to do righteous things and stay away from those things that would displease God.

Tell pupils the story below.

This activity has been provided courtesy of the IHNA Education Programme, developed by Building Bridges Pendle.

A Story from the Sirah

The sahabah (companions) of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ included:

- ▶ Bilal, a black man from Abyssinia (present day Ethiopia)
- ▶ Salman, a brown man from Persia
- ▶ Mariyah, a woman from Egypt
- ▶ Suhayb, from Rome
- ▶ Abdul-Salam, a Jew
- ▶ Safiyyah, a Jewish woman
- ▶ Anas, a young Arab boy from Madinah
- ▶ Many other people from different tribes of Arabia.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ referred to the sahabah by their country of origin in order to show his acceptance of other nations and nationalities. He ﷺ gave respect and equal opportunities to all of the sahabah, regardless of their colour, language or place of origin.

Explain that Islam recognises cultural differences and allows for people to identify themselves as belonging to a particular country or nation, so long as they do not believe that they are superior to others on account of these differences.

C Plenary

Ask the following questions to recap the lesson:

- ▶ Why did God create various nations and tribes?
- ▶ What is the name of the country in Europe where Jews, Christians and Muslims lived harmoniously for hundreds of years?
- ▶ Why did Prophet Muhammad ﷺ refer to the sahabah by their background?
- ▶ What does the term 'community cohesion' mean?
- ▶ What are the benefits of living in a multi-cultural/ multi-faith community?

Stress that Islam teaches and encourages us to live and work harmoniously with people of all backgrounds.

Take collective feedback.

Suggested Follow-up Work

Give instructions for follow-up work:

Discuss with your parents and write down six things that can help to bring people from various faiths and cultures together.

Guess the Religion



Guess the Religion – Answers

MULTI CULTURAL ANDALUSIA

