

Living in a Multi-faith Society

Suggested Duration: 60 minutes

Key Stage 2

Learning Objective

- ▶ To learn that citizenship and Islam teaches respect and tolerance for people of all faiths and of no faith

Key Words

- ▶ Multi-faith, religious symbols: crescent, cross, khanda, dharma wheel, star of David, Om

Islamic Values

Islam teaches us to respect people of all faiths and of no faith.

Citizenship Values

Citizenship encourages us to respect people's right to hold different beliefs and traditions.



ams:uk
association of multi-faith schools



citizenship
foundation

continyou
Changing lives through learning



M (B)



Resources

Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.1201:
Word Search

Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.1202:
Symbols of World Religions
(six sheets)

Activities

Ask some quick questions to recap the last lesson.

Share the lesson objective.

A Starter Activity

Ask pupils to do the word search activity, which contains six major faiths in the UK – Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism.

B Development

Activity 1: World Religions

Split pupils into small groups. Each group gets one of the six symbols of the major religions of the world.

Ask pupils to identify:

- ▶ which religion the symbol represents
- ▶ what they think is special/unusual about the symbol
- ▶ what they know about that religion.

Take feedback.

Activity 2: Islamic Guidance

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

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَى
وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا

'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...' (Surat al-Hujurat 49:13)

Explain that it is God's wish that we are different and have different backgrounds. It is His wish for us to make an effort to know and understand different communities.

وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَجَعَلَ النَّاسَ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً

'If your Lord wanted He could have made all mankind a single community...' (Surat al-Hud 11:118)

Question: Why do you think God did not make us all the same?

Suggested answer: So that we can know each other and can learn from each other. In life we always need individual people with unique and different skills and abilities. By making us different, God is testing how we will treat people who are different.

Question: What can we learn from people of other faiths and of no faith?

Read the following story to the class.

A Story from the Sirah

'Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had to pass by the house of an old woman every day. Each time, the old woman would throw rubbish on him from her window. The Prophet would pass by quietly without reacting angrily. One day, when Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was passing by the woman's house, she was not there to throw the rubbish.'

Ask the pupils: What would be your reaction if this happened to you?

Read the remainder of the story.

'Prophet Muhammad ﷺ enquired about the old woman and learnt that she was ill. He knocked on her door and the woman asked who it was. The Prophet ﷺ replied: 'It is I, Muhammad.' The old woman became very frightened and thought he had come to get his revenge. The Prophet ﷺ assured her that he only wanted to visit her because she was ill and wanted to look after her.

'The old woman was so shocked by the kindness and compassion of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ that it made her re-think her views about Islam and Muhammad, and eventually she became a Muslim.'

Tell the pupils this is what God wants us to do – if anyone is sick, a Muslim should visit them and care for them.

Ask pupils to discuss the story in detail. Ask:

- ▶ What was Prophet Muhammad ﷺ trying to show us?
- ▶ Should we respect people from other religions?

Activity 3: Did You Know?

Give out Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.1203 and ask pupils to read it in pairs/groups. Encourage them to add more facts about/ similarities between various religions.

C Plenary

Explain that, just as Madinah was a multi-faith society, so too is the United Kingdom a multi-faith society that respects everyone's choice to live by and practise their religion.

Sum up and stress the idea that Islam teaches us that people of all faiths and of no faith should be respected.

Suggested Follow-up Work

Ask pupils to:

- ▶ find out five things that they have in common with another religion
- ▶ try to speak with someone of a different religion, and share some facts about their faith
- ▶ try to organise a visit to the mosque/madrasah or arrange for a guest to come in and speak about their religion.

Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.1203:
Did You Know?

Word Search

Name:

Class:

Madrasah:

Find the six major faiths – Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism – in the word search below.

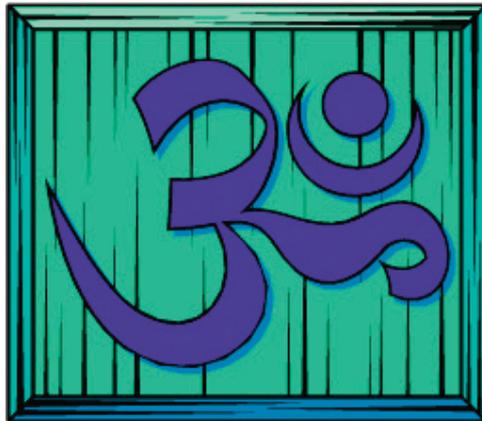
Y	I	S	B	A	D	Y	M	H	M	I
T	H	A	U	I	H	I	C	H	S	I
I	M	M	D	I	I	M	S	U	D	D
N	M	B	D	A	I	S	I	Y	J	M
A	D	I	H	M	S	I	H	K	I	S
I	B	K	I	L	L	U	I	N	H	A
T	M	I	S	I	A	D	U	J	U	U
S	I	M	M	K	M	N	U	A	D	D
I	I	S	C	S	U	I	L	J	I	C
R	A	S	I	H	S	H	I	M	A	R
H	A	D	I	S	A	S	B	M	S	I
C	R	U	J	I	I	I	M	N	H	J



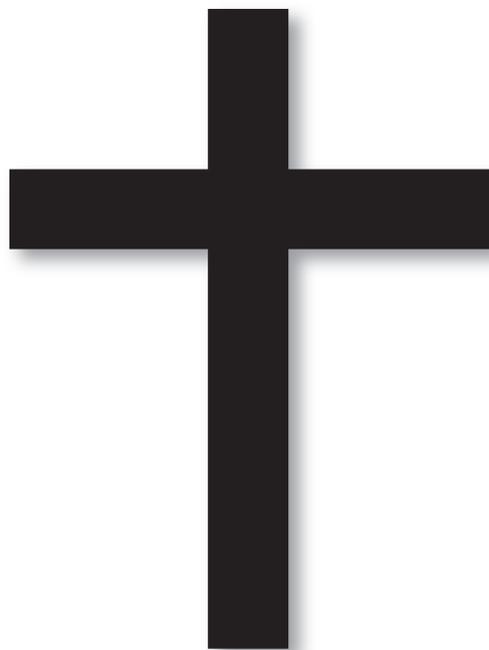
Symbols of World Religions



Symbols of World Religions



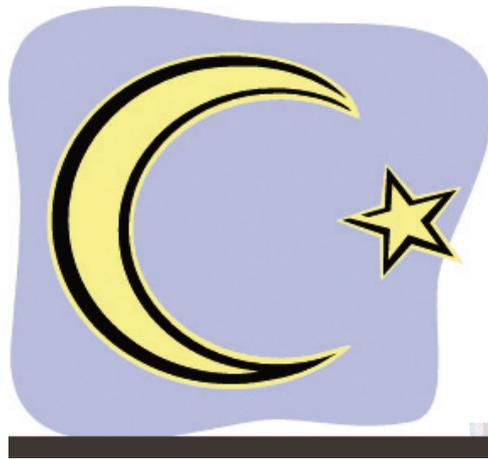
Symbols of World Religions



Symbols of World Religions



Symbols of World Religions



Symbols of World Religions



Did You Know?

Did you know that:

- ▶ Moses, Jesus, Joseph and Isaac are respected equally Islam?
- ▶ The Christian period of fasting is called Lent?
- ▶ Jews don't eat pork?
- ▶ Hindus pray in the morning before going to work/school?
- ▶ Prophet Muhammad ﷺ stood up to pay respect to a Jewish funeral?
- ▶ People can have a meal (Langar) at any time of the day in a Sikh temple (Gurudwara)?
- ▶ The Sikh phrase 'Ik onkar' means 'there is only one God'?
- ▶ The Buddhist law of Karma teaches that if you do good you will receive good, and if you do bad you will receive bad?
- ▶ Jews, Christians and Muslims are cousins in faith, as all three religions can trace their roots back to Prophet Ibrahim?