

**Suggested Duration: 60 minutes**

## Learning Objectives

- ▶ To understand that we can be Muslim **and** British
- ▶ To understand that Islam recognises different nations and tribes
- ▶ To understand that Islam teaches that no nation is better than another, but the best are those who are righteous

## Key Words

- ▶ British, nation, nationality, righteousness, ummah

## Islamic Values

Islam teaches us that different nations are part of God's creation and we should respect each other. It also teaches us that we can be Muslims and citizens of the country where we live.

## Citizenship Values

Citizenship encourages respect for different nations and people's choice of religion.



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M (B)



# Activities

Ask some quick questions to recap the last lesson.

Share the lesson objectives.

## A Starter Activity

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

Ask pupils to respond to the following questions in a few words:

- ▶ What does it mean to be a Muslim?
- ▶ What does it mean to be British?
- ▶ What does it mean to be a British Muslim?

**Suggested answer:** The pupils are likely to identify some of the following:

- ▶ Being a Muslim means praying, fasting, performing pilgrimage, giving charity, being honest, being kind.
- ▶ Being British means respecting and obeying the law, accepting differences or simply, they might say, being born/living in Britain.
- ▶ Being a British Muslim means you are allowed to practise your religion. You can be a good British citizen and a good Muslim. Some pupils might also see themselves as English, Scottish, Welsh, Irish, Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi, Somali, Iraqi, and so on.

The key here is to stress the fact that they can be proud of their family heritage and still be a part of British society.

Discuss the opinions with the class.

## B Development

### Activity 1: Islamic Guidance

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

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ  
وَإِخْتِلَافُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَأَلْوَانِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي  
ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

*'And from His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the differences in your tongues (language) and your colours (race), indeed in that are signs for the whole universe.'* (Surat al-Rum 30:22)

**Questions:** Why are differences in tongues and colours signs of God? Does this verse suggest that people of one colour are better than the other?

**Suggested answers:** No, all people are the same before God and only those who are righteous are better than others. The difference between people (how they look and speak, and their cultures) is one of the miracles of God.

## Activity 2: A Story from the Sirah

Tell pupils the following story.

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

### A Story from the Sirah

The Sahabah 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.

These are only some of the Prophet's ﷺ circle of friends. It is an excellent example of diversity because, although there were differences in culture and racial background, they were able to sit together, learn from each other and work together.

Salman, the Persian, advised Prophet Muhammad ﷺ about using trenches as a defensive strategy, so in the Battle of Khandaq trenches were used. This shows that the Prophet ﷺ welcomed ideas from people who were from different nations.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ would often refer to his companions through their country of origin. This shows clearly that we can be both Muslim and citizens of different countries.

*'Bring to your heart kindness and mercy for others and do not behave towards them like a wild beast, this is because they are either: your brother in religion or the same as you in creation.'*  
(Nahjul-Balagah)

### Activity 3: The Rainbow Colours of Islam

Show a picture of a rainbow (if you cannot photocopy/print in colour, ask pupils to think of one). Ask pupils: What is beautiful about the rainbow?

**Suggested answer:** The rainbow is made up of different colours yet they complement each other. Stress that, as Muslims belong to various nations and countries, they are like the colours of a rainbow, they complement each other, and they make one Muslim ummah.

**Question:** Does anybody know which country is called the 'Rainbow Nation' and why?

**Suggested answer:** South Africa is called the 'Rainbow Nation' because it has people of different colours, backgrounds and faiths living and working together as one nation. Nelson Mandela was the person who gave this name to the people of South Africa.

**Question:** Ask pupils if they think Britain is also a rainbow nation.

**Suggested answer:** Yes, as we have people from various faiths and backgrounds who speak many languages. All these features make us a rainbow nation.

Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.1301:  
Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ Circle of Friends

Pupils' Activity Sheet 2.1302:  
Picture of a Rainbow

## C Plenary

Recap the lesson and stress the following points:

- ▶ Islam recognises different races, tribes and nations.
- ▶ In Britain you can be Muslim **and** British.
- ▶ Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had companions (Sahabah) from various nations.
- ▶ We should respect differences in people.
- ▶ People in Britain are like the different colours of a rainbow.

## Suggested Follow-up Work

Ask pupils to speak to three people (members of their family or friends) and find out three things that they like about being British.

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