

Freeland CE Primary School

Golden Eagles Spring 1 Year B

Theme: Community

Key Question: Does the community of the mosque help Muslims lead better lives?

Key Knowledge

The mosque is a key place of worship for Muslims and is also the centre of the Muslim community or Ummah.

The Imam is a highly respected leader of the community within the mosque.

The tradition of Islamic communities building mosques goes back to the time of Muhammad, who built the mosques in Medina.

All the mosques have a similar orientation; the position of the Mihrab ensures that worshippers are facing towards Mecca.

The most famous Mosque is the Ka'ba although that is said to predate Muhammad. According to Islamic tradition it was built or rebuilt by Abraham (Ibrahim) and Ishmael. It is one of the holiest sites of Islam.

The architecture of the mosque reveals many key Muslim beliefs: there are no pictures, but the decorations are mostly based on Islamic calligraphy because of the rule forbidding the making of images of people and living creatures.

Men and women are usually kept separate in the mosque, with women often not required to attend and seated upstairs with the young children.

The Qur'an is not kept wrapped on a high shelf in the Mosque as the whole building is considered holy.

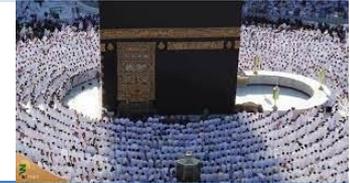
The main worship hall is organised in such a way as to ensure that worshippers face the same direction, close together so that they move almost in unison during the prayer rituals.

There are places for ritual washing – performing wudu is essential before offering prayers.

During Islamic festivals (Eid al Fitr and Eid al Adhu) the mosques is the focus for special morning prayers, During Ramadan many mosques will provide food before the early morning prayers and the Iftar that breaks the fast each day. It is also the place to which Muslims bring their charity gift (Zakat) at the end of Ramadan.

Many mosques also contain madrassas or Islamic schools, where children and adults learn more about Islam.

Key Vocab	Definition
Mosque	A place of worship for Muslims.
Ummah	A community of people who follow Islam
Imam	A leader of Islamic worship in a mosque
Mihrab	A niche in the wall of the mosque that shows which direction Mecca is in.
Qibla	The direction a Muslim faces when praying (towards the Ka'ba in Mecca)
Minbar	A pulpit in a mosque where the Imam leads prayers from.
Ka'ba	Most important mosque for Muslims. According to Islamic tradition it was built or rebuilt by Abraham (Ibrahim) and Ishmael. It is one of the holiest sites of Islam. The architecture of the mosque reveals many key Muslim beliefs: there are no pictures, but the decorations are mostly based on Islamic calligraphy because of the rule forbidding the making of images of people and living creatures.



Key Concept Questions:

Why is the mosque so important to Muslims?

How do the features of a mosque help Muslims to worship?

In what other ways does a mosque bring Muslims together to share their faith other than for worship?

Does the mosque help Muslims to be better people?