



# Eid ul Fitr

## Learning Objectives:

- To learn about the Islamic festival
- To write a celebration poem

# What is Eid ul Fitr?

Eid ul Fitr is a major Islamic festival for Muslims around the world.

It is a joyous occasion which marks the ending of the month-long fasting of Ramadan. It starts with the sighting of the new moon.

This year it will begin at sunset on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June. It will end on the evening of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June.



Whilst Eid ul Fitr is not a national holiday in Britain, it has been celebrated for many recent years as a huge festival in Trafalgar Square, where a variety of entertainments, stands and activities are organised by Muslim communities.



During Ramadan itself, it is obligatory for all Muslims, with the exception of children, the sick, the elderly or pregnant women, to fast from dawn until sunset for a month. During this period, followers will spend time on spiritual reflection and more frequent prayers as they seek to become closer to God.

There is an emphasis on forgiveness, and they will also focus on helping others and giving to charitable causes. Their fasting reminds them of the less fortunate, poor or hungry people in the world.



The ending of Ramadan and its strict discipline, is therefore a time for relaxation. During Eid ul Fitr, families and friends will gather together to exchange presents and share special foods.

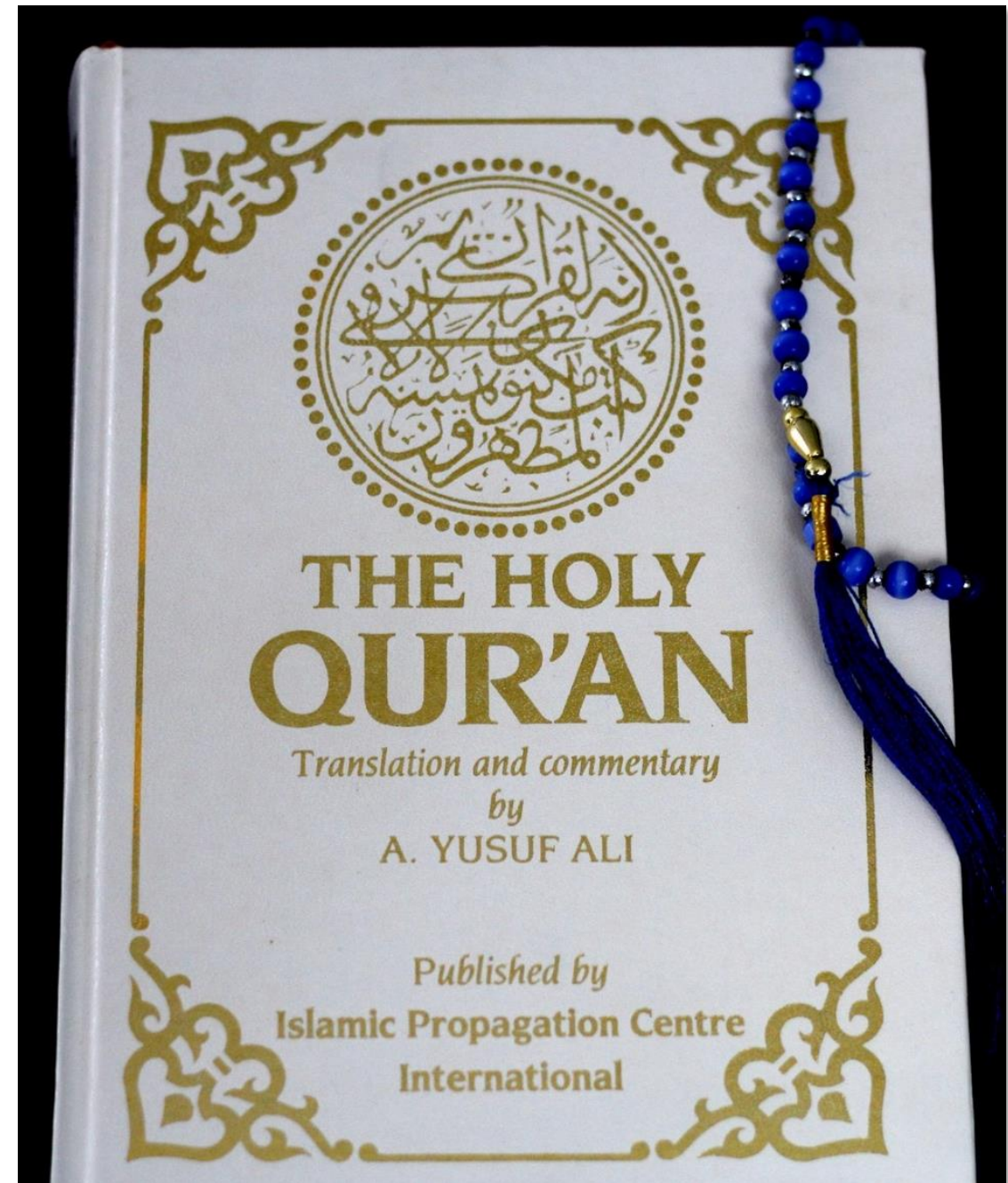
Children will wear new or best clothes, and homes will be decorated. Cards and greetings will be exchanged as people wish each other 'Eid Mubarak' or 'Happy Eid'.



However, its essential purpose is give thanks to God, and Muslims will attend morning prayers at the Mosque and listen to readings from the Qur'an.

# The Qur'an

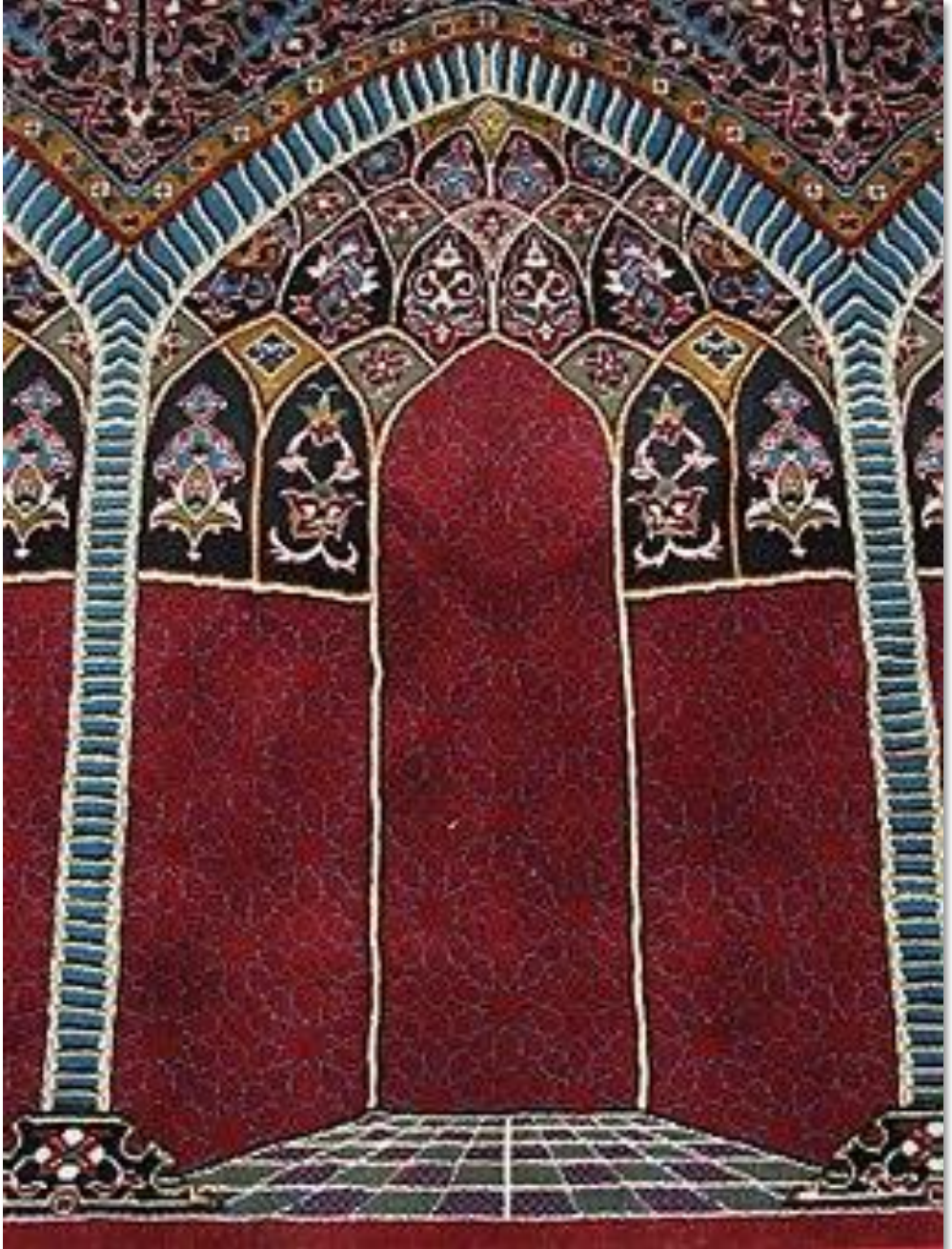
The Quran is the sacred book of Islam. It is believed by Muslims to be God's word, as given to Muhammad by the archangel Gabriel. As such it is the foundation and guidance for their beliefs and practices.





# Prayer Mats

Personal cleanliness is essential before praying for Muslims, and as well as washing hands and feet, they will each kneel on their personal prayer mats as an unsoiled place of prayer. The design of the mat is often geometrical, and will always have a focal point at the top which is pointed towards Mecca, when praying.



# The Qibla

The Qibla is the point on a Muslim prayer mat which should be pointed in the direction of Mecca when used at prayer.



# Mecca

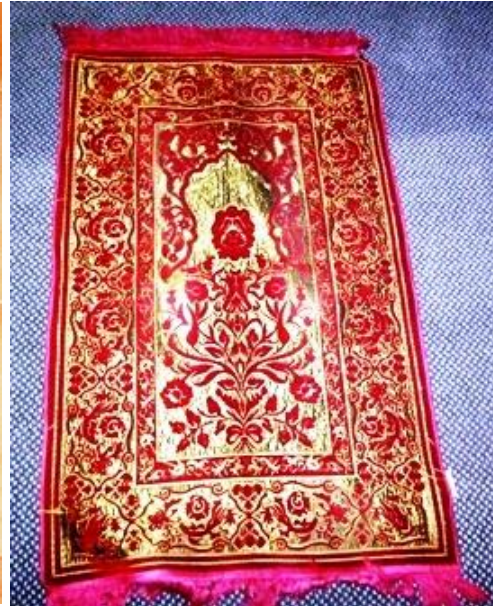
Mecca is a city in Saudi Arabia which is believed to be the birthplace of Muhammad. All Muslims pray towards this point to symbolize their unity.

It is estimated that there are 1.6 billion Muslims around the world, making Islam the world's second-largest religious tradition after Christianity.



Can you  
find  
Mecca?

# Design a Prayer Mat







# Eid Mubarak



The fasting time is over.  
The day is getting late.  
We are watching for the new moon  
A sign to celebrate.

For now is Eid-ul-Fitr,  
And we shall all have fun  
With meeting friends and family  
Now our festival's begun.

'Eid Mubarak!  
'Eid Mubarak!' we say  
Our greeting to our folks and friends  
On this our special day.

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