

KS2 Sacred Writing task:

For the Teacher

- Important as the **Prophet Muhammad** is to **Muslims**, he is not important in himself but because he is regarded as the final and greatest prophet of **Allah**, the recipient of Allah's revelation recorded in the **Qur'an**.
- **Qur'an** means 'recitation' and the **Arabic** words are meant for reading aloud wherever possible. Muslims believe the **Qur'an** to be the actual words of Allah received over a period of time by the Prophet Muhammad through the **Angel Jibril** (Gabriel). The festival of **Laylat-ul-Qadr** (the Night of Power or Majesty), celebrated on the 27th day of **Ramadan**, commemorates the revelation of this sacred book of Islam.
- Since it is believed that these are the actual words of Allah, it is important to keep the **Qur'an** in Arabic. It has been translated into other languages, but when translated it is not regarded as the proper **Qur'an**. For this reason Muslims all over the world learn Arabic in order to recite and understand the **Qur'an** as Allah intended. Many Muslims learn the whole of it by heart - when one does so, he or she is called **hafiz**.
- The **Qur'an** has 114 **surahs** (chapters) and over 6,000 verses. Apart from the opening surah its chapters tend to be organised so that the longest comes first and the shortest at the end.
- As the words of Allah, the **Qur'an** has **authority** in all things, providing insight into the will of Allah for humankind. Its **influence** is wide-ranging. It is central to worship practices, regulates belief, life and behaviour and provides a guide for decision-making for the community and the individual. The **Hadith** (statements about what Muhammad said, did or approved of in particular situations) is looked to after the **Qur'an** to help Muslims in their decision-making.

Possible learning objectives

Learning about: the Qur'an.

Pupils working at level 4 should be able to...

- Explain the importance of the Qur'an for Muslims and give reasons why it is treated with great respect;
- Explain how and why the Qur'an is used as a guide for daily living.

Learning from: the Qur'an.

Pupils should be able to reflect on and express...

- Thoughtful ideas about how texts and words influence them;
- The values and beliefs which influence their own lives;
- Thoughtful responses about who or what is an authority in their own life—where do they turn for guidance or reassurance?

The activities outlined on the following pages develop aspect of each of these objectives but tend to focus particularly on the 'learning from' elements.

Some passages translated from the Qur'an

Creation

God it is that created the heavens and the earth and that which is between them, in six days ... Such is the Knower, the Mighty, the Merciful, who made all things good.

(Qur'an 32: 4-9)

Eat of the good things that have been provided for you, and be grateful to GOD.

(Qur'an 2: 172)

The Qur'an

There has come to you light and a clear book from Allah. With it Allah guides him who will follow His pleasure into the ways of safety and bring them out of utter darkness into light by his will and guide them to the right path.

(Qur'an 5: 15-16)

A code for living

Worship none but Allah; treat with kindness your parents and kindred, and orphans and those in need; speak fair to the people; be steadfast in prayer; and practise regular charity.

(Qur'an 40: 83)



For the Teacher:

Spiral text activity

The activity on the next page is aimed at upper primary pupils. It is a spiral text activity which provides a series of structured questions around a key quote to encourage pupils to think more deeply about its meaning.

Devising a spiral text activity

Step 1: Start with a stimulus quotation (from scripture, for example).

Step 2: In the first box, place a question which asks pupils to interpret what the quotation says and means.

Step 3: In the next two or three boxes, devise questions which 'unpack' an aspect of the question.

Step 4: Add a question for reflection which relates back to the quotation itself.

The approach can be differentiated by the number of boxes provided and by the depth of the probing questions set. Providing more boxes (with easier learning steps) can be better for some pupils.

The example given is for individual (written) work but this approach can also be

Activity for pupils: Calligrams

Islamic art is famed for its abstract and geometrical designs and intricacy. Words from the Qur'an often form the basis of such designs.

Pupils could write a **poem** in the form of a **calligram** (that is, when the formation of the letters or the font used represents an aspect of the poem's subject).

The poem could be based on a text from the Qur'an.

For example, the Qur'an as a light in the form of a candle or a light bulb.

Alternatively they could take the idea of **kindness** and write a **concrete or shape poem** based on something someone has given them as a gesture of kindness.

What do you think?

3 What do the words below mean?

Justice is: _____

Kindness is: _____

Giving is: _____

4 Think about when someone has been kind to you.

Write down three 'feeling' words to describe how it made you feel.

2 What does this say about how Muslims should try to live?

1 God wants justice and kindness and giving to others, and forbids causing harm. He wants you to take notice.

5 What do you think are some of the ways people cause harm in the world today? Write down two things and say why you think they are bad.

1 _____

2 _____

6 Think about: How might the world be a better place if everyone 'took notice' of what Muslims believe to be these words from Allah in the Qur'an?

Read the quotation in bubble 1. Think carefully about it and move on to bubble 2 and try to answer the question as thoughtfully as you can. Work your way around each bubble and back to the beginning.

When you have completed your writing, talk with a partner about your answers. What have you said that is similar? What is different.

Next, on your own: Choose one of the 'feeling' words you wrote down and write and **acrostic poem** based on it.