

Mosques

What is a Mosque?

- A mosque is an Islamic place of worship.
- It comes from the Arabic word masjid, which roughly translates as 'place of prostration' in English.
- To prostrate is to stretch on the floor in a position of submission. This is a major element of Islamic prayer.
- In summary, therefore, a mosque is a place of prayer.



Key features of a Mosque?

- Other than being a clean place to pray, there is no set design that a mosque must follow. Some mosques are just houses that are converted into places of worship.
- However, there are several key features that purpose-built mosques usually have.



Use the additional information sheet to read about each feature pictured here

The Minbar:



This is a raised podium which the Imam uses to give a sermon.

The Washroom:



These are built to help Muslims perform wudu.

Wudu is a washing ritual which takes place as a part of prayer. It involves washing the hands, mouth, nostrils, arms, head and feet.

Mosques

The Dome and Minaret:



The Minaret: The first thing people will see when going towards a mosque is its large, ornate tower. These are used by the muezzin to call the people to prayer.

The Dome: The second most noticeable feature of most mosques are their often intricately patterned domes. As Islam originates from very hot countries, these have the useful effect of keeping the mosque cool. They also remind Muslims that the whole universe belongs to God.

People at the Mosque:

- **Mezzin:** Gives the call to prayers (adhan) so Muslims know when to pray.
- **Imam:** Leads the prayers. May have other roles to help the community, such as conducting funerals.

Jumma Prayers:

- Friday afternoon is normally the busiest time at the mosque outside of major festivals.
- This is when Muslims say Jumma prayers. These are congregational prayers. The Qur'an recommends praying together where possible and Jumma is a duty for Muslim men. Women can go to Jumma prayers, but they are not expected to.

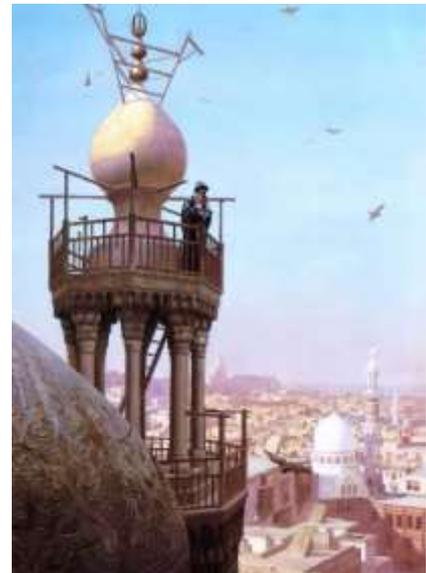
The Qibla and Mibrab:



The Qibla: The direction that should be faced when a Muslim prays. It is fixed as the direction of the Kaaba in Mecca.

The Mihrab: This is a small alcove in the qibla wall of the mosque that points in the direction of Mecca. Muslims will pray towards the qibla wall.

Call to prayer:



Mosques

- After the prayers, the Imam will then give a sermon from the Minbar.
- Whilst it is best to go to a mosque for Jumma prayers, it is possible to do it elsewhere as long as you pray with others. For example, schools with large numbers of Muslim students may organise Jumma prayers during lunch hours.

Important features of a Mosque:



The plan of a Mosque:

