

Islam: How do Muslim communities share their beliefs?

Key Features of a mosque/masjid

Wudu is the Islamic act of washing parts of the body with water. It is necessary to do this before one prays. Muslims will wash their hands, face, arms, hair, feet and mouths.

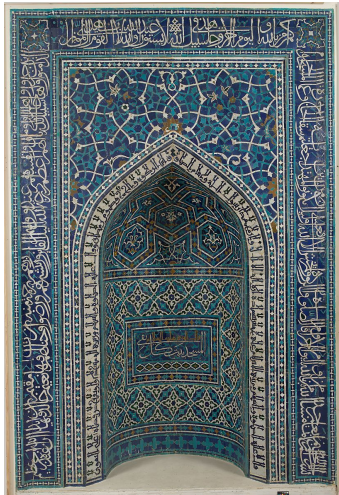
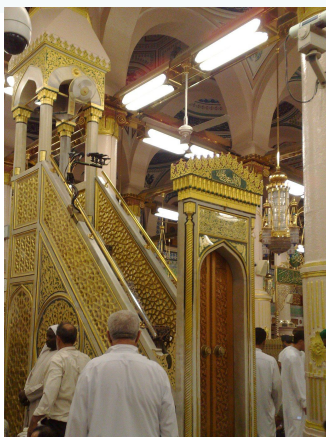
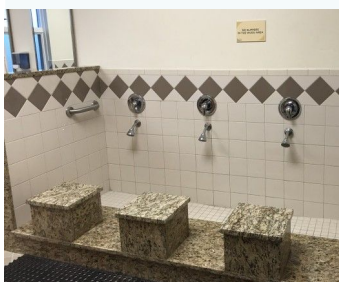
The mihrab is a semicircular niche in the wall of a mosque that indicates the direction of Mecca.

A minaret is a slender tower with a balcony from which a muezzin calls Muslims to prayer five times a day.

A sahn is a courtyard in Islamic architecture.

A qubba or dome represents Allah's power as the creator.

A minbar is an elevated platform where the Imam delivers a sermon.



Ummah

Ummah	Is the name for the worldwide community of Islam. This means that all Muslims, regardless of where they live in the world, are all members of a worldwide faith.
The first ummah	After the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad (pbuh), he preached about Allah in Mecca. His followers relocated to Medina after persecution and founded the first ummah.
Prayer (Salat)	Is the practice of prayer. It is one of the five most important duties for Muslims. Gives Muslims a sense of community as they pray in the same way and mosques have features in common.

What are mosques used for?

- 2000,000 Muslim children attend madrassah after school.
- A place to study: children are taught to read and write Arabic.
- Learning about the Qur'an and miracles within it.
- A place to gather for Salat (prayer).
- A place to celebrate festivals.

The Five Pillars of Islam

Shahada	Profession of faith - stating that Allah is the one and only god and that Muhammad (pbuh) was his prophet.
Salat	Prayer and communicating with Allah. There are fixed times within the day where Salat should be performed (five times).
Sawm	Fasting (required during Ramadan).
Hajj	Pilgrimage to Mecca which every Muslim must make at least once in their lifetime (if able).
Zakat	Muslims give 2.5% of their money to charity.

Key Vocabulary

unity	Joining as a whole or community.
imam	A religious leader who leads the community in worship and prayer.
mihrab	A niche in a mosque wall to show the direction of Mecca.
madrassah	A place where teaching and learning is done.
prostration	Kneeling with forehead, hands, knees and feet touching the floor.
masjid	The Arabic term for mosque meaning 'a place of prostration'.

