



Religion	Islam
Denomination	Sunni
Question answered:	What symbols are important to you? (KS1 Q1)
Key concepts, questions, and outcomes:	Symbols, worship Why do symbols and stories play an important role in religions? Does everyone believe the same things about God? Recognise and give simple accounts of the core beliefs.
Key teaching points:	Most symbols are not holy and are not worshipped but serve as pointers to Allah
Prior knowledge:	Pupils need to know how symbols are used in everyday life. They need to know that the Muslim place of worship is a Mosque. They need to know that Muslims believe in obedience to the teaching of Allah

Core Vocabulary:			
Tasbeeh beads	Beads on a string that many Muslims use in prayer to help them think about Allah/God	Prayer Mat	A small carpet usually with Arabic patterns or writing used by Muslims to kneel on to pray
Qiblah	The recess in the Mosque pointing towards Mecca where the pulpit is placed	Ka'ba	Black cube shaped building at the centre of the largest Mosque in Makkah
Crescent	The thin moon shaped symbol that features in Islamic architecture and flags.	Prayer	Speaking to God; in Islam, most prayer is corporate, standing shoulder to shoulder
Qur'an	Muslim holy book, written in Arabic	Hijab	Scarf worn by women as a head covering, a sign of modesty

Summary of answers:
<p>The first speaker makes it clear that while symbols are used in Islam to help people understand and remember they are not usually holy in themselves and are not the focus of worship. He focuses on the symbol of the crescent moon, which is found in Islamic architecture and on flags and other items. For him it is a reminder that Allah created the moon, and that when he sees a new moon, he knows that it is a new month, as the Islamic calendar follows the lunar, rather than the solar cycle. The moon brings him a sense of peace and tranquillity.</p> <p>The second speaker refers to artefacts that have a symbolic meaning for her – the prayer mat, as it emphasises the importance of the five daily prayers and the Tasbeeh beads for a similar reason. She also talks about the symbolic nature of the Ka'ba in Makkah, as it too is the focal point for prayer. She also shows the caps that are worn by men when they pray and her own hijab, though she doesn't go into detail.</p> <p>The final symbol is the Qur'an, the Muslim holy book.</p>

Next Steps:
<p>Visit a Mosque virtually or in person to look for the symbols mentioned.</p> <p>If possible, interview some other Muslims about the symbols important to them.</p> <p>Watch a film clip of Muslims at prayer and see how the prayer mats and the beads are used.</p> <p>Explore different head coverings worn by men and women and discuss why people often cover their heads to pray.</p> <p>Look at a range of pictures of mosques to spot the crescent moon.</p> <p>Explore different solar and lunar calendars and compare them.</p>