



Religion	Islam
Denomination	Shi'a
Question answered:	What symbols are important to you? (KS1 Q1)
Key concepts, questions, and outcomes:	Symbols, Understanding and Obedience, Mosque, God, Allah 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:	The way that they are used is what makes symbols in Islam important for these Muslims. Prayer and obedience to the teaching of Islam is more important than the symbols themselves.
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 or God

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
Quiblah	The recess in the Mosque pointing towards Mecca where the pulpit is placed	Minaret	The tall tower at the side of a mosque from where the call to pray is sounded
Mosque	Muslim place of worship	Dome	The rounded high roof of a Mosque, usually green or gold
Pulpit	A raised seat with steps where the person leading the service will stand	Prayer	Speaking to God; in Islam, most prayer is corporate, standing shoulder to shoulder

Summary of answers:
<p>Both speakers make it clear that symbols are significant in Islam. Muslims should not rely on symbols but focus on prayer and obedience. All of the symbols mentioned are used to make prayer easier for Muslims.</p> <p>The Tasbeeh (or Tasbih) beads are strings of beads – sometimes 33, sometimes 99 that are used in Muslim prayer.</p> <p>The prayer mat and the patterned carpet in a Mosque are both designed to help a Muslim face the correct direction and, in the Mosque, to stand shoulder to shoulder.</p> <p>The second speaker refers to the other features found in a Mosque and how these also contribute to prayer.</p> <p>He also makes it clear that the symbols are to help people understand, not be the focus.</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 talk about how it feels to do things together and maybe identify some other ways in which doing things together has an impact (e.g. a Mexican wave, all facing the same direction in assembly, soldiers marching).</p> <p>Listen to the adhan, the call to prayer from a minaret, and find out what it means.</p>