

Islamic place of worship – The Mosque

Mosques Around the World

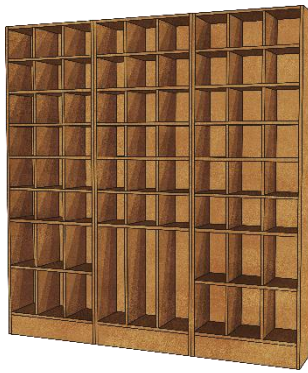
Al Haram Mosque – Mecca, Saudi Arabia

This is the largest mosque in the world and is home to one of Islam's holiest places, the Kaaba. Muslims try and make the journey here at least once in their life time.

Wherever they are in the world, Muslims always pray in the direction of this special place.



Key features inside a Mosque



Shoe rack

A place to leave your shoes before entering.



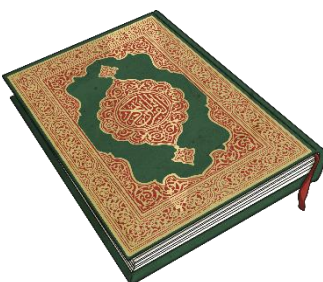
Prayer mats

Mosques either have carpet with individual prayer mats or Muslims take their own prayer mat to worship upon.



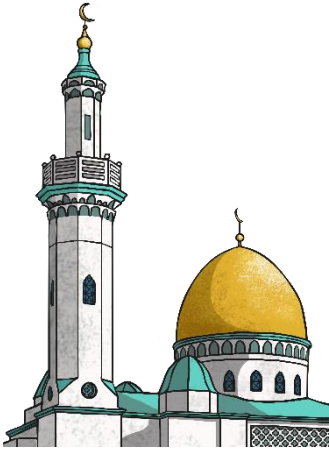
Washroom

Muslims must wash before entering the main hall.



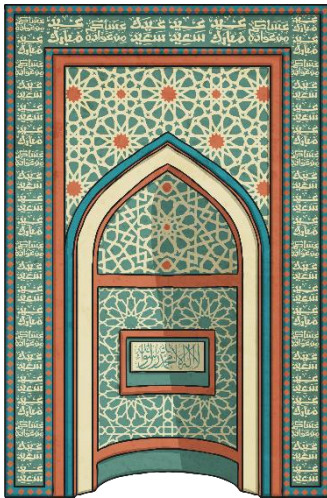
Qur'an

The Muslim holy book which is the word of God. It is treated with great respect and placed on a special wooden stand to be read.



Minaret

Most mosques have at least one minaret which is a tall thin tower. A man stands at the top and calls Muslims to prayer.



Mihrab

An alcove in the wall shows the direction the worshippers need to face.

This is the direction of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, the most sacred Muslim place in the world.

Why Do People Go to Mosque?

Muslims have to pray 5 times a day.

Many Muslims believe that praying with other Muslims can make you feel part of a family.



Inside a mosque there is often a school where people can learn the Arabic language.

This is the language that the Muslim holy book is written in, the Qur'an.

Questions

Question 1: What is the name of the largest Mosque in the world?

Question 2: Why does every Mosque have a washroom?

Question 3: What is the Minaret used for?

Question 4: When Muslims pray, what should they be facing?

Question 5: What language is the Qur'an written in?

Question 6: Can you find one similarity between the Mosque and the Gurdwara, that we looked at last week.
