

Title: Islamic Prayer

Student Learning Objective:

Students will learn the basics about the second pillar of Islam, prayer. Then they will engage in making colorful Islamic prayer rugs using geometric designs.

Background Information:

Learning about prayer

Please read over the worksheet for students containing simple information about prayer and for more in depth knowledge of Islamic prayer see the following websites:

<http://muslim-canada.org/salaat.html>

<http://www.jannah.com/learn/prayer.html>

Designing the rugs

Information on Islamic geometric designs:

<http://www.askasia.org/teachers/essays/essay.php?no=96>

Wonderful examples of detailed Islamic geometric designs for modeling:

<http://www.bonner-design.com/geometric/>

Assessment:

- Play the interactive question and answer game.
- Fill in the “L” section on the KWL chart.
- For the art component, ask students to come to the front of the room and talk about their prayer rug.

Materials/Resources:

- KWL chart (attached)
- Prayer worksheet (attached)
- Index cards
- Print outs of shapes to make Islamic geometric designs for kids at: http://www.dltk-kids.com/world/muslim/islamic_geometric_art.htm
or you can pass out tangrams to trace
- Paper (unlined, large white chart paper for life-size prayer rugs/regular white printer paper for mini-rugs)
- Yarn (cut into strips about 3 inches long)
- Tape or glue
- Markers, paint, crayons or colored pencils

Learning Activities:

Initiation:

1. Copy the KWL chart on a large piece of paper.
2. Tell students that today they will be learning about Islamic prayer. Ask for volunteers to tell you what they know about Islamic prayer so that you can fill in the “K” section of the KWL chart.
3. Then ask the students what they would like to know about Islamic prayer and proceed to fill in the “W” section of the “KWL” chart. (You may also fill this section by passing out index cards and having each individual student write his or her own “want to know” and come up to tape it on that section).

Lesson Development:

1. Now that students are thinking about the topic of prayer, pass out the “Prayer worksheet” attached to this paper. Read it together as a group.
2. After the reading is finished, tell the students that they are going to play an interactive question and answer game to use the information they just learned.
3. To do this, split students into small groups and ask each group to write five different questions about Islamic prayers on one side of an index card and the correct answer on the back. Then collect the cards and mix them up. Alternating groups, ask each a question from the cards. (No calling out from the other groups or they lose a turn.) If the group whose turn it is has the correct answer, mark them a point on the board. If they cannot come up with an answer or it is incorrect, go to the next group. Play until all the cards are used and see which group has the most points.
4. Once the game is finished and the students are now “experts” in the basics of Islamic prayer, ask them “What might a Muslim use to make sure his prayer area is clean?” The students should tell you that the Muslim might use a prayer rug. Let the students know that they will be making their own prayer rugs using Islamic designs.
5. Use a piece of chart paper to model for the students how they will go about making an Islamic design using either the printouts of the shapes cut into pieces or tangrams to trace on the paper in a pattern of the choice with a pencil. Then explain to them that they may fill in their design with color (using whatever medium you choose). At this point explain to them that geometric designs are very popular with Muslims because their religion stipulates that they cannot draw people or animals to avoid idolatry (because only God should be worshipped). At the end of the modeling, show the students how they can attach the pieces of yarn with tape or glue to make it look like a real rug.
6. Pass out chart paper and materials and let students get to work.

Closure:

1. When students are finished with their rugs, ask them to come to the front of the room one by one and explain to the others how they designed their prayer rug. You may want to ask the students questions such as:
 - Why did you they choose that design?
 - What shapes did you use the most or was your favorite shape?
 - What colors did you use and why?

****Displaying the prayer rugs in the room or in the hall is a great way to celebrate the students' excellent work****
2. After that, look over the questions that the students had in the "W" column of the "KWL" chart as a group. Use those questions to help fill in the "L" part of the chart to solidify the students' knowledge. (You may use the index card method to fill in the "L" section or do it out loud as a group.)

Extensions

Math:

There are many excellent math activities relating to Islamic geometric designs that you can use as an extension to this lesson:

<http://www.geocities.com/mutmainaal/images/3.jpg>

<http://mathforum.org/alejandre/circles.html>

For younger children, you can discuss patterns and ask them to make specific patterns with colors and shapes using the printouts/tangrams while designing their rug.

Language Arts:

Ask the students to write a paragraph telling about how Islamic prayer is the same or different than the way they pray. If they do not pray or would like to write about another topic, you may ask them to write a paragraph describing in detail their prayer rug (the steps they took to make it, colors, shapes, design etc.)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Prayer in Islam

Did you ever wonder about prayer in Islam? This worksheet will help you understand the who, why, when, where, and how of the second pillar in Islam.

Who prays?

- All Muslims adults are required to pray. By the time children reach eight years old they should also pray every prayer like adults do.

Why do Muslims pray?

- Muslims pray to worship the one and only God, called Allah in Arabic.

When do Muslims pray?

- Muslims can pray to God at any time of the day, but they must pray the five required prayers. Those five prayers are in the very early morning, midday, late afternoon, at sunset, and at night.

Where do Muslims pray?

- The best place for Muslims to pray is in the mosque. If there is no mosque close by, then a Muslim can pray in any clean area (at home, school, work, the park, a restaurant, etc.). Many Muslims pray on prayer rugs to make certain the area is clean.

How do Muslims pray?

- Muslims must first wash themselves with clean water by cleansing their hands, mouth, nostrils, face, arms, top of the head, ears and feet. Then they go to a place to pray and face in the direction of Mecca. To start the prayer, Muslims say the “call to prayer” and then make an intention that they are praying this prayer for God only. After that, the Muslim begins the prayer. The prayer consists of a series of bows and prostrations (the number of these depends on what time of day the prayer is). At the beginning of each part of the series, the Muslim recites the first verse of the Qu’ran. During the prayer, the Muslim also recites two other verses of choice from the Qu’ran and says worshiping phrases at different points in the series, such as “God is the Greatest”, “Glory to my Lord the Almighty”, and “Glory to my Lord the Most High”. After praying, the Muslim might take a few minutes to quietly ask God for help or for something he or she would like.

K

**What Do I Already
Know?**

W

**What Do I Want To
Know?**

L

What Have I Learned?