

What do Muslims Celebrate?

Today we will be...

Finding out about the Day of Ashura.



Islamic New Year

1 Muḥarram

21.09.17
11.09.18
31.08.19
19.08.20

The Day of Ashura
starts on the tenth day
of the new Islamic year.

Day of Ashura

10 Muḥarram

29.09.17
20.09.18
9.09.19
28.08.20



The Day of Ashura is a voluntary day of fasting when Muslims think about people who are important in their religion. Shi'a Muslims think about Husayn ibn Ali. He was the grandson of Muhammad. He was killed because of the things he believed in. Sunni Muslims think about the day Moses and the Israelites were freed from the Egyptian Pharaoh.



The story of Moses freeing the Israelites is important for Jews, Christians and Muslims.



The Muslim story of Moses.

A long, long time ago, the rulers of Egypt passed a law that any boys born to Israelites must be killed. After the law was passed Moses was born. His mum did not want him to be killed.

God told her to keep him alive until danger was near. After about three months she put Moses into a box and she put the box into the river. God promised her that Moses would be safe. The Queen spotted Moses in the river.



The Pharaoh found out and ordered that Moses should be killed. The Queen persuaded the Pharaoh that they should adopt Moses. The Pharaoh agreed and Moses grew up safely in the royal palace. When Moses grew up he left the palace. A few years later God instructed Moses to go to the Pharaoh and tell him to stop keeping the Israelites as slaves. Moses went to Egypt and spoke to the Pharaoh, but the Pharaoh was furious and refused to listen!



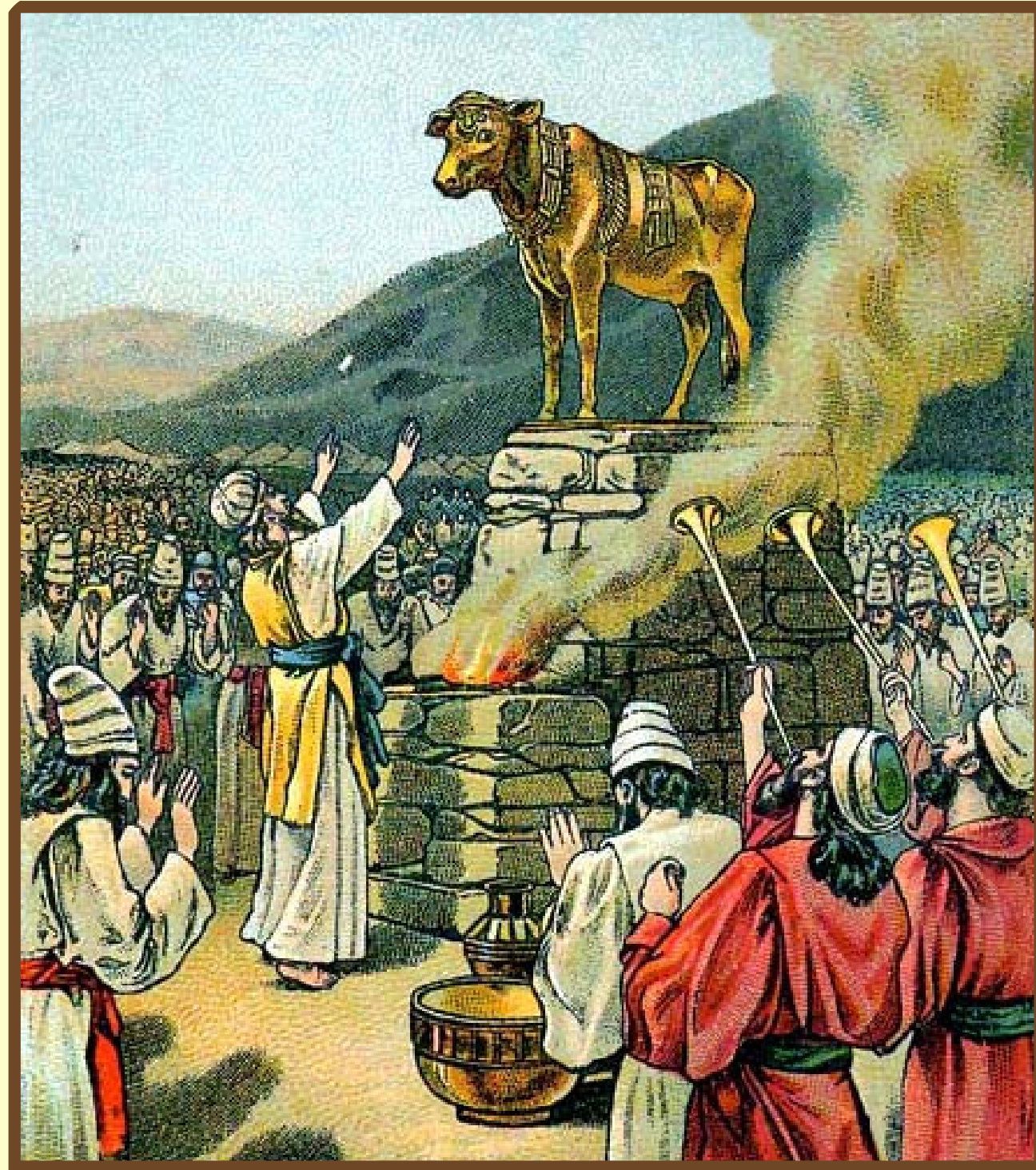
Egypt was then struck with lots of plagues and diseases. The people begged Moses to save them, but as soon as he did they began listening to the Pharaoh again. God told Moses to



take the people who wanted to follow him to the sea. God created a path through the sea for Moses and his followers to take. As soon as they were safely across the path it disappeared and the soldiers who were chasing him drowned.



Now that his followers were safe Moses then left them so he could talk to God. God gave him a list of rules to follow. When Moses returned to the people he found they had begun to worship a gold



cow. Moses was upset. He asked the people why they were worshipping the false idol and not God. The people said that a man called al-Samiri had led them astray. Moses banished al-Samiri. He warned the people to follow the rules God had given them and spread his message to other people.





The Day of Ashura is important for both Shi'a and Sunni Muslims. It reminds them about the sacrifices people made for them and that it is important to follow the rules of Islam no matter what.



Where do Muslims
go to worship?

Think, pair, share.





Muslims worship in a place called a mosque.



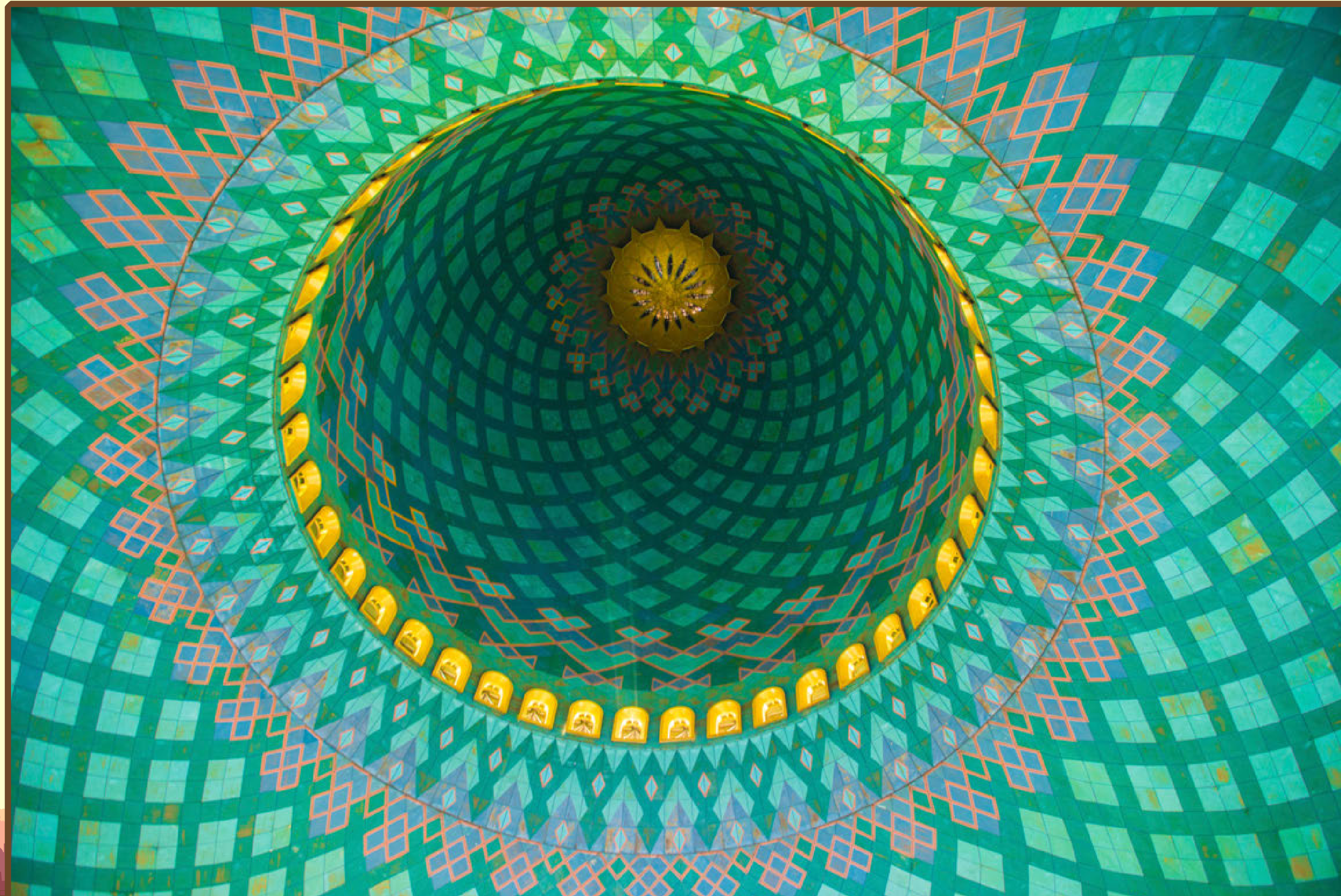
Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi, UAE.



The tall tower is called a minaret. Muslims are called to prayer by someone called the Muezzin. The Muezzin stands at the top of the tower. Mosques in Britain are not allowed to call people to worship from this tower. Instead they use a radio to send the message.



Most mosques have domed roofs above the main prayer hall.
Some of these domes signify heaven and the sky.



There are no chairs in the prayer hall so lots of people can fit in it.



Prayer Hall of
Nasir al-Molk
Mosque, Iran.



The gold niche in the wall is called a Mihrab. It shows Muslims which direction Mecca is. Muslims face Mecca when they pray.



Sheikh Zayed
Grand Mosque,
Abu Dhabi, UAE.

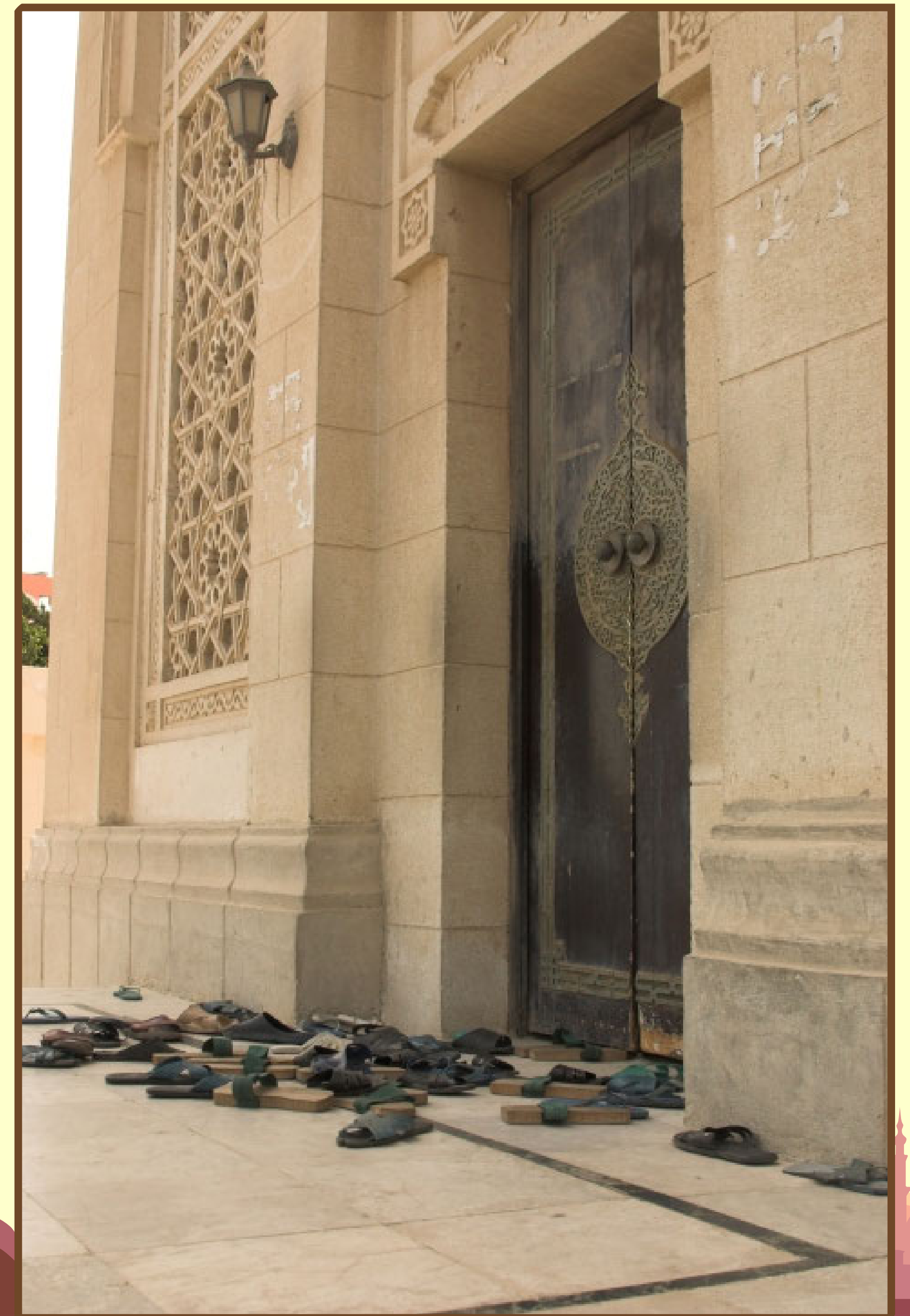
Mosques often have a fountain, a pool or an area to wash in. Muslims wash their hands, mouth, throat, nose, ears, arms and feet before they enter the mosque.



Mosque of the Martyrs, Baku, Azerbaijan.



These shoes have been left outside a mosque in Jerusalem, Israel. Everyone who enters a mosque has to take their shoes off to keep the mosque clean and ready for prayers. Some mosques allow shoes to be worn just inside the door, but they have to be taken off and left at the mosque's cloakroom.





What can you
remember about
mosques?

Think,
pair,
share.

