

Activity Type

Reading, matching and writing exercises

Focus

Ramadan

Aim

To learn about the Muslim holiday Ramadan and its associated vocabulary.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this Ramadan worksheet, students learn about the Muslim holiday Ramadan and its associated vocabulary.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

First, students read a text about Ramadan.

Next, students match words in bold from the text to their definitions.

Exercise B - Answer key

- | | | |
|----------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. dawn | 5. mosques | 9. fast |
| 2. stews | 6. gratitude | 10. gather |
| 3. holy | 7. dusk | 11. dates |
| 4. raise | 8. obligatory | 12. empathy |

Students then answer true or false questions about the information in the reading by circling the correct answer.

Exercise C - Answer key

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. true | 6. false |
| 2. true | 7. true |
| 3. true | 8. false |
| 4. false | 9. false |
| 5. false | 10. true |

Students then move on to answer multiple-choice questions about Ramadan by ticking the correct answers.

Exercise D. Answer key

1. a 2. c 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. b

Finally, students answer questions about Ramadan.

Exercise E - Answer key

1. Ramadan falls on different dates each year because it is based on the cycles of the Moon.
2. They eat stews, rice, bread and dates.
3. People raise money, donate supplies to the poor, and do volunteer work.
4. They pray, ask for forgiveness and listen to readings from the Quran.

A. Read the text about Ramadan then answer the questions below.

Ramadan is a **holy** month celebrated by Muslims all around the world. It is on the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and lasts either 29 or 30 days. As the calendar is based on the cycles of the moon, the dates of Ramadan are different each year.

Ramadan is a time of patience and showing **empathy** for the poor. This is why most Muslims **fast** between **dawn** and **dusk**. Before the sun rises they have a morning meal, after which they do not eat or drink until the sun goes down. They then break their fast with an evening meal called *iftar*. This usually consists of **stews**, rice, bread and **dates**. Though most Muslims over the age of 14 are expected to fast, exceptions are made for pregnant women, the elderly, and anyone who is unwell. Athletes and those who are travelling long distances do not have to fast either.

During the month of Ramadan, people focus on their faith. They also give up bad habits, practice self-discipline and perform generous acts. Some Muslims **raise** money and donate supplies to those in need, whilst others do volunteer work. Special services take place in **mosques** during which people pray and ask for forgiveness. They also listen to readings from the Quran, the holy book of the Islamic religion.



After the last day of Ramadan, friends and family **gather** together to celebrate *Eid-ul Fitr*. During this three-day holiday, friends and families gather together to show **gratitude** to God following the previous month of reflection. As well as giving thanks, Muslims make an **obligatory** payment to charity. Many people decorate their homes for this festival. They also wear new clothes, visit each others' houses and exchange gifts. Fasting is not allowed at this time, and lots of sweet treats and pastries are eaten.

B. Match the words in bold from the text about Ramadan to their definitions.

1. The first appearance of daylight in the sky.
2. Dishes of meat and vegetables cooked together slowly.
3. Dedicated to God.
4. To collect money for a particular cause.
5. Buildings where Muslims go to pray.
6. Thankfulness.
7. The time in the evening just before it gets dark.
8. Something you must do because of a rule or law, etc.
9. To go without food for a long period of time.
10. To get together with other people.
11. Small sweet fruits that come from palm trees.
12. The ability to understand the feelings of others.

C. Are the following statements about the text true or false? Circle the correct answers.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
| 1. The length of Ramadan can vary. | true | false |
| 2. Ramadan occurs on different dates each year. | true | false |
| 3. Most Muslims don't eat during the daytime during Ramadan. | true | false |
| 4. People don't eat before sunrise. | true | false |
| 5. Young children fast during Ramadan. | true | false |
| 6. People donate supplies to their families. | true | false |
| 7. Some people do unpaid work during Ramadan. | true | false |
| 8. People pray for money when they go to the mosques. | true | false |
| 9. Eid-ul Fitr lasts one day. | true | false |
| 10. Nobody fasts during Eid-ul Fitr. | true | false |

D. Read the multiple-choice questions below and tick the correct answers.

- When do Muslims fast?

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| a. during the day | b. at night | c. during the day and night |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
- Which of these people do not have to fast?

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| a. teenagers | b. all women | c. sick people |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|
- What do Muslims give to charity during Eid-ul Fitr?

| | | |
|---------|-------------|----------|
| a. food | b. supplies | c. money |
|---------|-------------|----------|
- What do people do to their homes during Eid-ul Fitr?

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| a. make them look nice | b. tidy them | c. give them to charity |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
- What do people exchange during Eid-ul Fitr?

| | | |
|----------|-------------|------------|
| a. money | b. presents | c. clothes |
|----------|-------------|------------|
- What is not permitted during Eid-ul Fitr?

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|------------|
| a. eating | b. not eating | c. praying |
|-----------|---------------|------------|

E. Answer the following questions about Ramadan.

- Why does Ramadan fall on different dates each year?
- What do people eat in the evening during Ramadan?
- What generous acts do people do during Ramadan?
- What do Muslims do at the Mosques during Ramadan?