



## Prior Knowledge

### What is sacred?

Sacred means connected with God or a god or dedicated to a religious purpose.

### Why is a mosque a special place for Muslims?

The **mosque** is a place to gather for prayers, to study and to celebrate festivals such as **Ramadan**. It can also be used to house schools and community centres.

### What is inside a mosque and what happens there?

Mosques are places where **Muslims** worship, they are an open area of prayer in **Islam**. No music or singing is allowed inside a **mosque**, though professional chanters (qurrā) may chant the **Qur'an**.

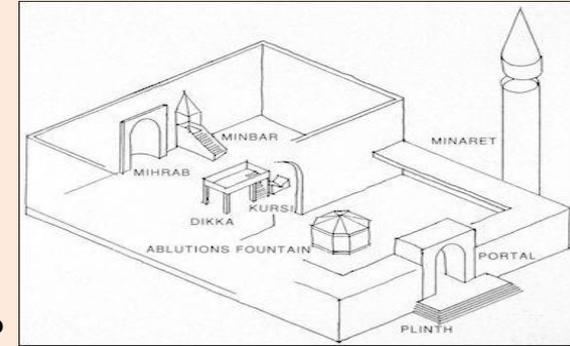
### Why is the Qur'an special to Muslims and what does the Qur'an teach?

**Muslims** regard the **Qur'an** as a source of guidance or road map for life, as well as being a source for knowledge about their faith and traditions. **The Hadith** are the Prophet **Muhammad**'s teachings about how to live life according to the **Qur'an**.

## New Knowledge

### What are the main features and functions of a local mosque?

The simplest **mosque** would be a prayer room with a wall marked with a “mihrab” - a niche indicating the direction of **Mecca**, which **Muslims** should face when praying. A typical **mosque** also includes a minaret, a dome and a place to wash before prayers.



### How is the mosque significant to daily life?

In Islam, **Mosque** is the centre of Muslim prayer life. A building called a **mosque** hosts daily activities for **Muslims**. **Muslims** gather there for prayers, on holy days and for special events and activities.

### Why do Muslims pray and what is the ritual?

For **Muslims**, the five daily prayer times (called salat) are among the most important obligations of the **Islamic** faith. Prayers remind the faithful of God and the many opportunities to seek His guidance and forgiveness.

### How do Muslims put their beliefs into action?

There are **five pillars** of the Islamic faith. These are professing one's faith; praying five times a day; giving zakat, or donating a certain portion of one's wealth; fasting during **Ramadan**; and making a pilgrimage to **Mecca** in Saudi Arabia. Each of these pillars is an important part of being **Muslim**.