

SACRED WRITINGS IN ISLAM **THE QUR'AN**

1: ISLAM AND THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

Islam is the name given to the religion of the Muslims. Both of these words come from the Arabic word meaning submission. Islam can also mean 'peace'.

Islam began in that part of the world now called the Middle East but today there are Muslims throughout the world including about 1,000,000 in Britain.

A Muslim is someone who submits to the will of Allah. **Allah** is the Islamic word for God. Muslims believe that Allah sent prophets (messengers) to teach people how to live. The last and greatest of these was Muhammad who received messages from Allah through Angel Gabriel (Jibreel). These messages were collected together into the Qur'an.

To find out the story of Muhammad:

READ Six Religions page 40-42 (sheet) or any Islam book

And then...

MAKE UP ten quick questions, with answers, that tell the story of Muhammad.

READ Six Religions page 42-43 (sheet)

And then...

WRITE a few lines to explain the Muslim view of Muhammad

2: THE QUR'AN

The Qur'an means recitation.

Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the actual word of Allah and can only be understood in its original Arabic. Interpretations (not translations) are allowed into other languages for personal use but not for worship, it is always read in Arabic.

Copies of the Qur'an are treated with great respect.

Its teachings offer guidance for every aspect of life.

All Muslims can recite parts of it.

It is divided into 114 surahs. All except one begin with the words:

'In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful'.

To find out how the Qur'an came to be written and what it contains:

READ Six Religions page 98 (sheet) and any other Islam book

And then...

WRITE an explanation to show how the Qur'an was given to Muhammad and how he gave it to the people and how it was finally written down

THE QUR'AN AS A GUIDE TO LIFE

To find out some of the Qur'an's teachings:

READ Six Religions page 99-100

And then...

WRITE a list of the main teachings to be founding the Qur'an.

To show how deep respect is shown for the Qur'an:

READ A Plan For All (sheet) taken from Skills in RE Book 2

And then...

LIST the various ways in which the Qur'an is respected.

And then...

MAKE a dictionary list of the following:

Hafiz, PBUH, Surah, Prophet, Recitation, Shari'ah, Sunnah

EVALUATION/DISCUSSION

'How does a person know they are doing God's will?'

What do you think? Give reasons for your answer

3: THE HADITH

The Hadith are collections of stories and sayings from the life and teachings of Muhammad. They are not as sacred or significant as the holy Qur'an but they play an important part in Muslim life and education.

READ Islam page 40

And then...

EXPLAIN what the Hadith contains and what is meant by the term 'Sunnah'

EXPLAIN what influences the way you think and act. Write your name in the centre of a page. Around the outside write the things which influence you and guide your life. (Use arrows to join these to your name.)