

IN AND ON

- What are the main purposes of a marriage?
- In your books, create a mind map with as many ideas as you can think of!

Purpose of
a marriage





How will you mark new relationships?

Literacy focus

Reading for comprehension

RE Skills focus

Evaluation & Reflection

HOW WILL YOU MARK NEW RELATIONSHIPS?

EVALUATE which aspects of a Muslim marriage you will use to mark new relationships in your community.

Show UNDERSTANDING by explaining why marriage is important in Islam.

DESCRIBE key features of a Muslim marriage ceremony.

TITLE

How will you mark new relationships?



WE NEED A MARRIAGE CEREMONY...

- As you might imagine, members of your new community are likely to fall in love, want to get married and grow your community further. You have to decide how you will mark new relationships in your community.
- Remember - your community is made up of members of several different religions as well as atheists and humanists so you should bear this in mind when you plan your marriage ceremony!

- 1) What do you know about weddings and marriage ceremonies already?
Are there any traditions you are keen to maintain?
- 2) Will you honour different religious beliefs in the marriage ceremony process, or have one standard ceremony for everyone?
- 3) Will there be any specific rules in the ceremony and marriage itself?

WHAT HAPPENS IN A MUSLIM MARRIAGE?

Nikkah: "to collect and bind together". This Arabic word refers to the Muslim marriage ceremony which involves signing a contract, reading from the Qur'an and celebrating with a feast.

Write this
down!

- Read through the information on the next slide, with key facts and rulings to marriages in Islam. In your books, answer the questions on the sheet in full sentences.

Literacy focus

Reading for comprehension

Extension:

- Use this quote from the Qur'an to explain why marriage is important in Islam. *"He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in peace and tranquillity with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): Verily in that are signs for those who reflect."* (Quran 30:21).



Marriage in Islam – Fact Sheet

There are 3 main aspects of a Muslim marriage: the Nikkah, mahr, and the walimah.

The **Nikkah** is when Muslims make and sign a contract agreeing to each other's rights and responsibilities during the marriage. An Imam (religious leader) may also read from the Qur'an (holy book) before exchanging vows in front of witnesses.

'**Mahr**' refers to the dowry (gift) offered by the husband for the bride, which is usually money, gold or property.

The '**walimah**' is a marriage feast given by the groom's side of the family to celebrate and publicise the welcoming of the bride to the family.

Islam does not generally allow men and women to freely mix or date before marriage, so many Muslims rely on their parents to find them a partner. This is known as an **arranged marriage**.

There are some strict rules in Islamic marriages.

- It is forbidden in Islam for parents (or others) to force people to marry.
- A Muslim man is allowed to have up to four wives simultaneously – known as **polygamy**. The existing partner(s) must agree and if a man cannot treat them all with kindness, love and fairness, he is forbidden to take more than one wife.
- Celibacy (refraining from sex) is disapproved, as it may lead to psychological and physical tensions and problems.
- Sexual intimacy outside marriage is forbidden to Muslims.

Muslim men can marry a non-Muslim women if they are a religion from the "People of the Book". This includes Judaism and Christianity. However, Muslim women are forbidden from marrying non-Muslims to avoid confusion in child-rearing.

Questions:

- What are 3 examples of 'mahr'?
- What is the difference between the Nikkah and Walimah?
- Why do some Muslims have arranged marriages?
- What are the rules to polygamy?
- How must a Muslim man treat his wife/wives?
- Which religions are included in the 'People of the Book'?

*"And among His signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in peace and tranquillity with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): Verily in that are signs for those who reflect."
(Quran 30:21).*



WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- Go over the features of an Islamic marriage. Which aspects do you think would be particularly suited to your community?
- 1) In your books write out 3 things you will adopt from the Islamic tradition
- 2) Now write out a plan of your marriage ceremony. Make sure you include any rulings!

Extra Challenge:
Explain why you are keeping the 3 things you have chosen!



QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT...

- What 3 things are you adopting from Muslim funerals?
- Will you have a section in the ceremony that honours or allows for the person's religious beliefs?
- Will you have any songs or readings?
- Who will lead the ceremony?
- Can anyone attend the wedding?
- Will you permit relationships outside of marriage?
- Will you allow different religions/cultures to mix and marry each other?
- Will you have a particular dress code or event?



Exam Practice!

Complete the question below. Remember, to get 5 marks you only need to give 5 different points. In this question, you do not need to explain them!

Describe what happens in a Muslim marriage ceremony. (5 marks)

Swap your books and read your partner's answer. Give them a mark and a **WWW/EBI**. If you finish, check for literacy errors using the literacy codes!



PLENARY – WRITE DOWN...

- 1 thing that surprised you about Muslim marriage
- 1 thing that you liked about Muslim marriage
- 1 thing you didn't like about Muslim marriage