

# Eid Al-Adha

## What Is Eid Al-Adha?

Eid Al-Adha is a **Muslim** festival that celebrates the great love that one man had for **Allah**. Eid Al-Adha falls on a different date every year. In the next few years, it will be in June or July.

## The Story of Sacrifice

Prophet Ibrahim (Peace Be Upon Him) had a son whom he loved very much. One night, Allah spoke to Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) in a dream. Allah told Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) that he wanted him to **sacrifice** his only son to demonstrate his love for Allah.

Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) was very sad because he loved his son but also loved Allah.

With sadness, he agreed. Just as Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) was about to sacrifice his son, Allah stopped him. He asked Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) to sacrifice a male sheep instead.

Allah was pleased with Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) because he had shown his love for Allah and was willing to give up his son for him.

## Celebrating Eid Al-Adha

Muslims celebrate Eid Al-Adha in different ways.

- They go to the mosque to praise Allah and give him thanks for the good things they have.
- They share meals with family and friends.
- They send cards and give gifts.
- Girls and women may decorate their hands with mehndi patterns. Mehndi is made from crushed henna leaves mixed with oil and other liquids such as lemon juice, water or tea.

It is an important time for Muslims to think about Prophet Ibrahim's (PBUH) love for Allah and for them to try to be more like him.

## Did You Know...?

When people sacrifice a creature to Allah, it is a sign of their obedience and how much they love him. This is because animals, such as lambs and goats, were very valuable to people hundreds of years ago and sacrificing one of these animals was a sign that they loved God more than the value of the animal.

## Glossary

**Allah:** The name for God in Islam.  
**Muslim:** People who follow the religion of Islam.

**sacrifice:** To give a living thing as a gift to a god.

Disclaimer: Due to the nature of this festival and the story from the Qur'an that it celebrates, the topic of sacrifice is mentioned in this reading comprehension. Sensitive, age appropriate language has been used but it is important to know that some Muslim children or other children familiar with the story which is also featured in other religions, may use the word 'killing' to describe the events and teachers should be aware of this. Sensitive and/or upsetting topics may emotionally impact your students due to past experiences. You should consider whether this content is appropriate and ensure adequate support is available for anyone affected.

# Questions

1. Who celebrates Eid Al-Adha? Tick one.

- ☐ Sikhs
- ☐ Hindus
- ☐ Muslims
- ☐ Christians

2. Look at the section titled **The Story of Sacrifice**.

Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- ☐ Allah was pleased with Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) because he had shown his love for him.
- ☐ Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) prepared to sacrifice his son but Allah stopped him.
- ☐ Allah told Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) to sacrifice a male sheep instead.
- ☐ Allah spoke to the Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) in a dream and told him to sacrifice his son to show his love for Allah.

3. Where might Muslims visit to give thanks to Allah? Tick one.

- ☐ a church
- ☐ a mosque
- ☐ a gurdwara
- ☐ a temple

4. What might Muslims do to celebrate Eid Al-Adha? Tick **two**.

- ☐ share a special meal
- ☐ go shopping
- ☐ go for a walk
- ☐ send cards and gifts

5. What does the word **sacrifice** mean?

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6. Fill in the missing words.

Mehndi is made from \_\_\_\_\_ henna leaves mixed with oil and \_\_\_\_\_ liquids.

7. If you celebrated Eid Al-Adha, what would be your favourite part of the celebrations?

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# Answers

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- ☐ Hindus
- ☒ **Muslims**
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2. Look at the section titled **The Story of Sacrifice**.

Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 4** Allah was pleased with Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) because he had shown his love for him.
- 2** Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) prepared to sacrifice his son but Allah stopped him.
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- ☐ a church
- ☒ **a mosque**
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4. What might Muslims do to celebrate Eid Al-Adha? Tick **two**.

- ☒ **share a special meal**
- ☐ go shopping
- ☐ go for a walk
- ☒ **send cards and gifts**

5. What does the word **sacrifice** mean?

**To give up a living thing as a gift to Allah or to give something up to show respect to a god.**

6. Fill in the missing words.

Mehndi is made from **crushed** henna leaves mixed with oil and **other** liquids.

7. If you celebrated Eid Al-Adha, what would be your favourite part of the celebrations?

**Pupil's own responses, such as: My favourite part of the celebrations would be sharing a special meal with my family.**

## What Is Eid Al-Adha?

Eid Al-Adha is a Muslim festival that lasts for two to four days depending on where in the world it is being celebrated. As all festivals in Islam follow the **lunar calendar**, the exact date of Eid Al-Adha changes every year. In the next few years, it will be in June or July. The festival is also known as the 'greater Eid' or the 'Feast of the Sacrifice'. This is because of what one man was prepared to **sacrifice** for the love of **Allah**.



## Celebrating Eid Al-Adha

- Many Muslim families celebrate Eid Al-Adha by going to the mosque to praise Allah and give him thanks for the blessings they have.
- Muslims also often wear new or special clothes.
- They will share meals with family and friends and sometimes sacrifice a lamb or a goat. They will give some of the meat to family, friends and donate a third of the meat to the poor. Only when a third is donated to the poor will Allah accept the sacrifice.
- They will also send cards and give gifts. Often, girls and women will decorate their hands with mehndi patterns.

# Eid Al-Adha

## The Story of Sacrifice

Prophet Ibrahim (Peace Be Upon Him) had a son called Prophet Isma'il (PBUH) whom he loved very dearly. One night, Allah spoke to Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) in a dream.

Allah told Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) that he wanted him to sacrifice his only son to show his loyalty and **obedience** to Allah.

Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) loved his son Prophet Isma'il (PBUH) very much but he also loved Allah. He knew he had to do what he had been asked.

With great sadness, he agreed to the sacrifice. The devil tried to persuade Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) not to do what Allah had asked but the prophet ignored him.



When people sacrifice a living creature to Allah, it is a sign of how much they respect him. This is because animals, such as lambs and goats, were extremely valuable to people hundreds of years ago and sacrificing one of these animals was a sign that they loved God more than the value of the animal.

Just as Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) was about to sacrifice his son, Allah stopped him. He asked Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) to sacrifice a ram instead.

Allah was pleased with Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) because he had shown his love for Allah and was willing to give up his son for him.

### Did You Know...?

Some Muslims will make the pilgrimage to the city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, where they praise and worship Allah. This is known as Hajj. Healthy Muslims are expected to do this at least once in their lifetime. Muslims believe that it brings them closer to God. Eid Al-Adha sometimes falls towards the end of Hajj.



### Glossary

**Allah:** The name for God in Islam.

**lunar calendar:** A calendar that follows the phases of the moon.

**obedience:** Doing what you are asked to do.

**sacrifice:** To give a living thing as a gift or to give something up to show respect to a god.

Disclaimer: Due to the nature of this festival and the story from the Qur'an that it celebrates, the topic of sacrifice is mentioned in this reading comprehension. Sensitive, age appropriate language has been used but it is important to know that some Muslim children or other children familiar with the story which is also featured in other religions, may use the word 'killing' to describe the events and teachers should be aware of this. Sensitive and/or upsetting topics may emotionally impact your students due to past experiences. You should consider whether this content is appropriate and ensure adequate support is available for anyone affected.

# Questions

1. How long does Eid Al-Adha last for? Tick one.

- ☐ one month
- ☐ one week
- ☐ two to four days
- ☐ one day

2. Draw **four** lines to match the word to the definition.

mosque	a calendar that follows the phases of the moon
lunar calendar	a Muslim place of worship
obedience	God in Islam
Allah	doing what you are asked to do

3. What is the closest definition for the word **sacrifice**? Tick one.

- ☐ to kill a living thing as a gift to Allah
- ☐ an important religious person
- ☐ a ram
- ☐ a holy place

4. Look at the paragraph titled **The Story of Sacrifice**.

Which of the following did Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) do? Tick **two**.

- ☐ He prepared to sacrifice his son but was stopped by Allah.
- ☐ He organised a feast.
- ☐ He spoke to his son in a dream.
- ☐ He sacrificed a ram.

5. How do you think Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) felt when Allah told him to sacrifice Prophet Isma'il (PBUH)?

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6. How do Muslim families help the poor at Eid Al-Adha?

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7. Describe how Muslims celebrate Eid Al-Adha in 25 words or fewer.

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8. Explain why you think that sacrifice is seen as a sign of loving God.

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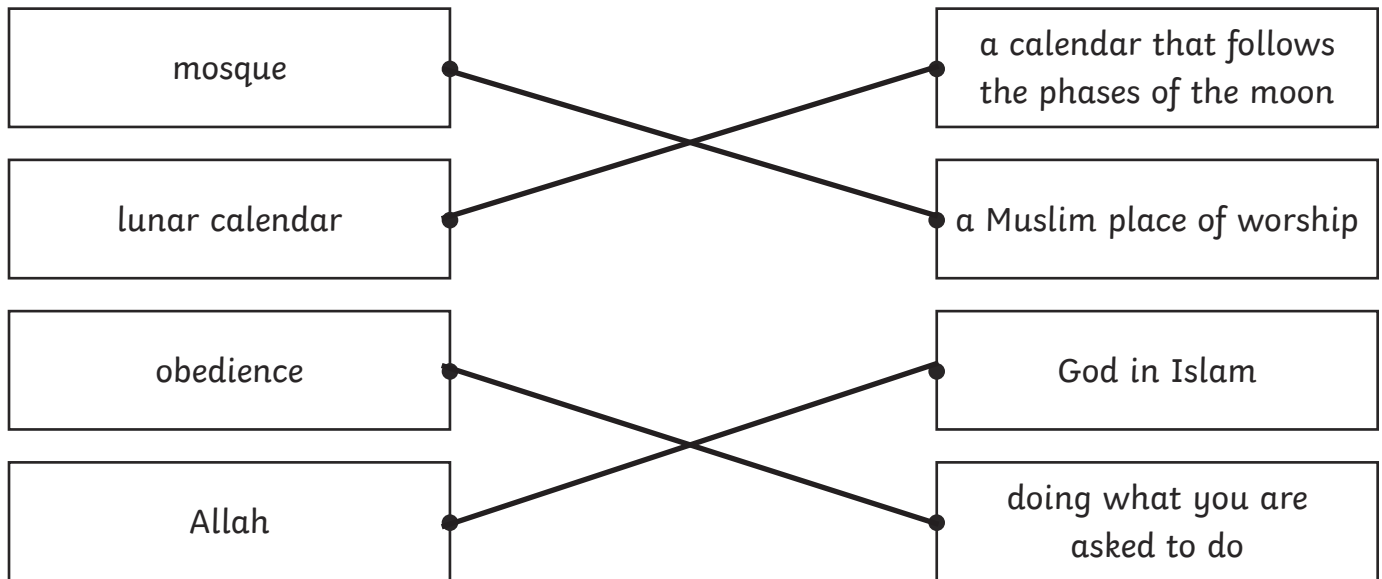
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# Answers

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- ☐ an important religious person
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- ☐ a holy place

4. Look at the paragraph titled **The Story of Sacrifice**.

Which of the following did Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) do? Tick **two**.

- ☒ **He prepared to sacrifice his son but was stopped by Allah.**
- ☐ He organised a feast.
- ☐ He spoke to his son in a dream.
- ☒ **He sacrificed a ram.**



5. How do you think Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) felt when Allah told him to sacrifice Prophet Isma'il (PBUH)?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) felt upset because he loved his son but loved Allah too and wanted to obey him.**

6. How do Muslim families help the poor at Eid Al-Adha?

**Muslim families help the poor by giving meat from a sacrificed lamb or goat.**

7. Describe how Muslims celebrate Eid Al-Adha in 25 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: People go to the Mosque to give thanks to Allah, give cards and gifts and share a special meal. Women might decorate their hands.**

8. Explain why you think that sacrifice is seen as a sign of loving God.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: In the past, animals such as sheep and goats were very valuable to people so sacrificing one of these animals meant that they loved God more than what the animal was worth.**

# Eid Al-Adha

## What Is Eid Al-Adha?

Eid Al-Adha is an important Muslim festival that happens every year. As all festivals in Islam follow the lunar calendar and depend on the phases of the moon, the exact date of Eid Al-Adha changes every year. For the next few years, it will fall in June or July. The festival is also known as the 'greater Eid' or the 'Feast of the Sacrifice'. This is because of what one man was prepared to sacrifice for the love of **Allah**.

## The Story of Sacrifice

Prophet Ibrahim (Peace Be Upon Him) had a son called Prophet Isma'il (PBUH) whom he loved very dearly. One night, Allah spoke to Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) in a dream. Allah told Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) that he wanted him to **sacrifice** his only son to show loyalty and obedience.

Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) loved Prophet Isma'il (PBUH) very much but had also devoted his life to Allah. He knew he had to do what he had been asked.

With a heavy heart, he agreed. The devil tried to tempt Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) away from his task but the prophet ignored him.

As Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) prepared to sacrifice his son, Allah stopped him. He asked Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) to sacrifice a ram instead.

Allah was pleased with Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) because he had shown that he was obedient and trusted Allah.

**Celebrating Eid Al-Adha**

It is traditional for Muslim families to celebrate Eid Al-Adha by wearing new clothes and going to the mosque.



They praise Allah and give him thanks for the blessings they have received.

Often, they will prepare and share meals with family and friends and sometimes sacrifice a lamb or a goat. They will give the meat to family, friends and donate a third of the meat to the poor. Only when a third is donated to the poor will Allah accept the sacrifice. Many Muslims will choose for their sacrifice to be made in a country where these donations are needed. In the UK, many families give money to charities who carry this out on their behalf, ensuring that poor people have food at Eid Al-Adha. When people sacrifice a living creature to Allah, it is a sign of how much they respect him. This is because animals, such as lambs and goats, were extremely valuable to people hundreds of years ago and sacrificing one of these animals was a sign that they loved God more than the value of the animal.

Celebrating Eid Al-Adha

Muslims also send cards and give gifts. Often, women and girls will decorate their hands with mehndi patterns. Mehndi is made from crushed henna leaves mixed with oil and other liquids, such as lemon juice, water or tea.

## Glossary

**Allah:** The name for God in Islam.

**Hajj:** A pilgrimage to Mecca where Muslims praise and worship Allah.

**sacrifice:** To give a living thing as a gift or to give something up to show respect to a god.

# Hajj

Traditionally, this pilgrimage sometimes happens around the same time as Eid Al-Adha. Every year, about two million Muslims from all over the world visit Mecca for Hajj. During the **Hajj**, the pilgrims carry out different acts of worship to show their devotion to their faith. They stand in front of the Ka'bah which is a shrine built by Ibrahim (PBUH) and praise Allah together. The Ka'bah is the most important monument in Islam.

Healthy Muslims are expected to do this at

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# Questions

1. How often does Eid Al-Adha happen? Tick one.

- ☐ every two years
- ☐ every month
- ☐ every week
- ☐ every year

2. Which of these best explains the meaning of **obedience**? Tick one.

- ☐ loving your son
- ☐ doing what you are asked to do
- ☐ talking to someone in a dream
- ☐ killing an animal

3. Look at the section titled **The Story of Sacrifice**.

What did Allah ask Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) to do at first?

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4. Explain why Allah was pleased with Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH).

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5. Why do Muslims visit the mosque at Eid Al-Adha?

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6. Why do some Muslims sacrifice a sheep or goat at Eid Al-Adha? Explain your answer.

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7. Imagine a Muslim friend invites you to their house during Eid Al-Adha celebrations. Predict what you might see.

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8. **Healthy Muslims are expected to do this at least once in their lifetime.**

What impression does the author give by using the word 'expected'?

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# Answers

1. How often does Eid Al-Adha happen? Tick one.

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2. Which of these best explains the meaning of **obedience**? Tick one.

- ☐ loving your son
- ☒ **doing what you are asked to do**
- ☐ talking to someone in a dream
- ☐ killing an animal

3. Look at the section titled **The Story of Sacrifice**.

What did Allah ask Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) to do at first?

**Allah first asked Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) to sacrifice his son.**

4. Explain why Allah was pleased with Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH).

**Allah was pleased with Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) as he showed he was obedient and loved Allah by being prepared to sacrifice his son.**

5. Why do Muslims visit the mosque at Eid Al-Adha?

**Muslims visit the mosque at Eid Al-Adha to give thanks to Allah.**

6. Why do some Muslims sacrifice a sheep or goat at Eid Al-Adha? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: In the past, animals such as sheep and goats were very valuable to people so sacrificing one of these animals meant that they loved God more than what the animal was worth. It also reminds them of the story of Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH).**

7. Imagine a Muslim friend invites you to their house during Eid Al-Adha celebrations.

Predict what you might see.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: We might share a special meal making sure that we have given money to help the poor have food too. We might paint mehndi patterns on our hands and give cards and gifts. People might be wearing new clothes.**

8. **Healthy Muslims are expected to do this at least once in their lifetime.**

What impression does the author give by using the word 'expected'?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Muslims should make the pilgrimage at least once if they are healthy enough.**