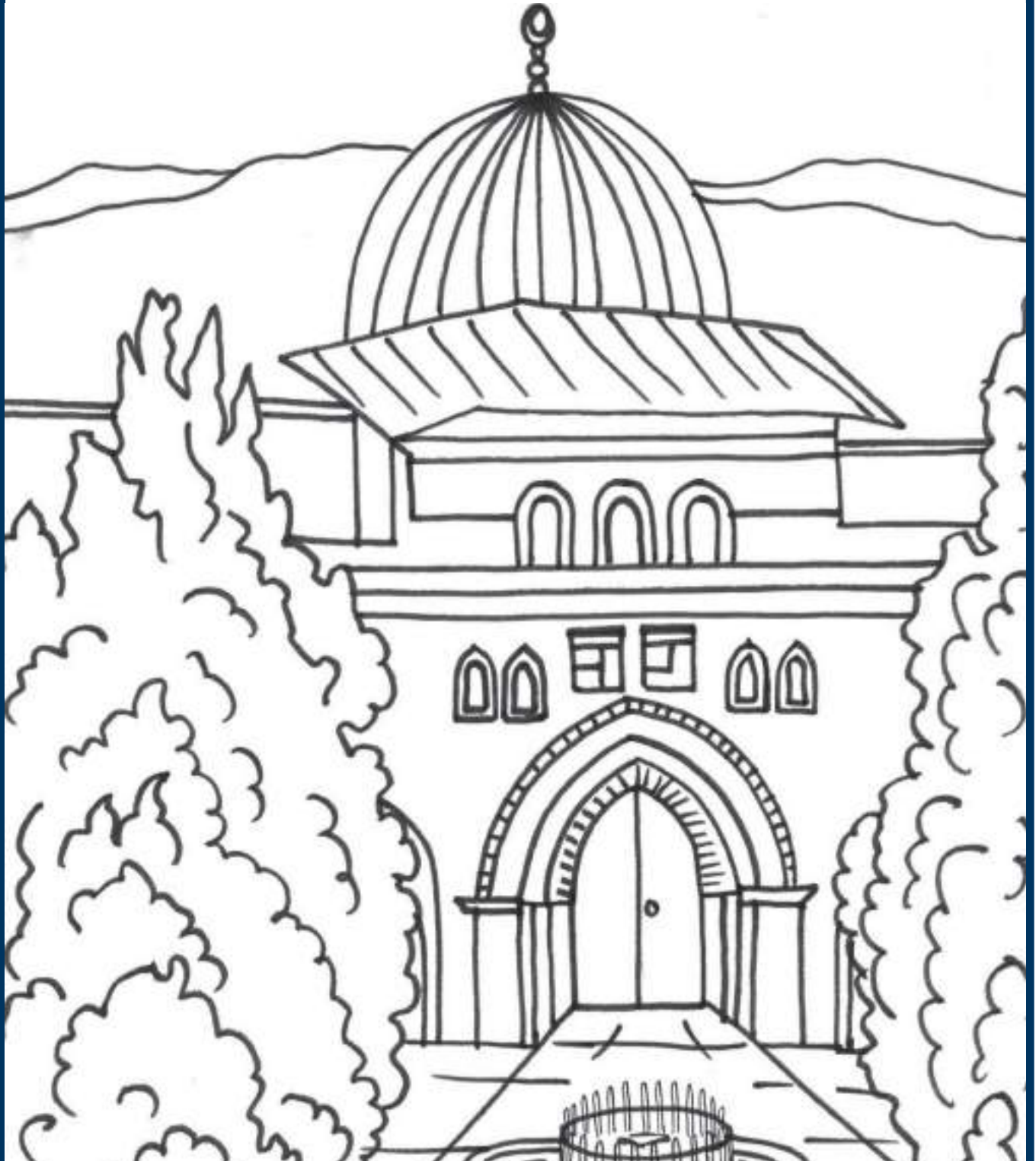


MASJID AL-AQSA

HISTORY AND IMPORTANCE



WORKBOOK

INTRODUCTION

This workbook is about Masjid Al-Aqsa, why it is important to us as Muslims and its history.

Masjid Al Qibli refers to the Grey Domed Masjid within the Al-Aqsa sanctuary. The Gold Domed Masjid is known as Dome of the Rock.

The whole area around these two Masaajid is blessed.



The walled area around the Masjid is called the Al-Aqsa Sanctuary. There are 12 gates that lead up to the compound.

WORDSEARCH

The Al-Aqsa compound is 14 hectares. That is equivalent to the size of 13 football pitches. Find the names of the 12 gates in the word search below.

R Y M
E W J Z H E Q Q A
U C O M D F G T K Z A M W
H H V Q J V O Z E A K Z E I Y P D
S D Q S H U U G O S L J B B X I Y I P
Y X U Q J U H W M G Q A A O Y V G A A D O
R P T N A E R B I F K J K G L C P J D E H
Y E R D Y A V D Y T X M A O C N U Q R T W Z E
K D E V J R E M I S S I O N Q J H C A W T S Z
M I O B B B L J X N S A N D H S W M L R Z J S G P
S U G Q C H A I N N L H K M K S T U X F V L O U X
T R Y Q O F Y B R Z G J I B I R H G A M F L L W W
M G J H W T N A H C R E M N O T T O C Z B D R U W N S
C V T Y O O O Q U R T T U F T L K O Y O E R D R W F I
S U P G F P Z L B P G A O C A Z A W F N S I N P M M L
X Q V F B N A U U K B B A N I G H A N I M E V G J
V P Z R M G P T C Y G A S B Z I I Q V R O F Z T U
X Y Q W O H W I W S V V Y A V U O U F O C M Y B X
M C I U G W Z Z L Y O W I L W G S P N N I R U
Z U Q I B G X B H V D Q J A A X P N H G Q G Z
J J W A A X J O C N D X A P Y O V P R D R
M Z X N Z W Y W E V W Q W B I O A C S G T
J W S O I R N N T R E J T A D X T D M
H T O N T I U W D Y U J A D W Y F
C W D M Z M A L N A Z E R
E K D N B X P B U
A X Y

Ablution
Al Nazer
Chain
Iron

Golden
Al Asbat
Al Thulate
Remission

Maghribi
Al Atem
Bani Ghanim
Cotton Merchant



The Al-Aqsa compound is situated in the city of Jerusalem, in a country called Palestine.



LET'S ZOOM IN ON THE MAP



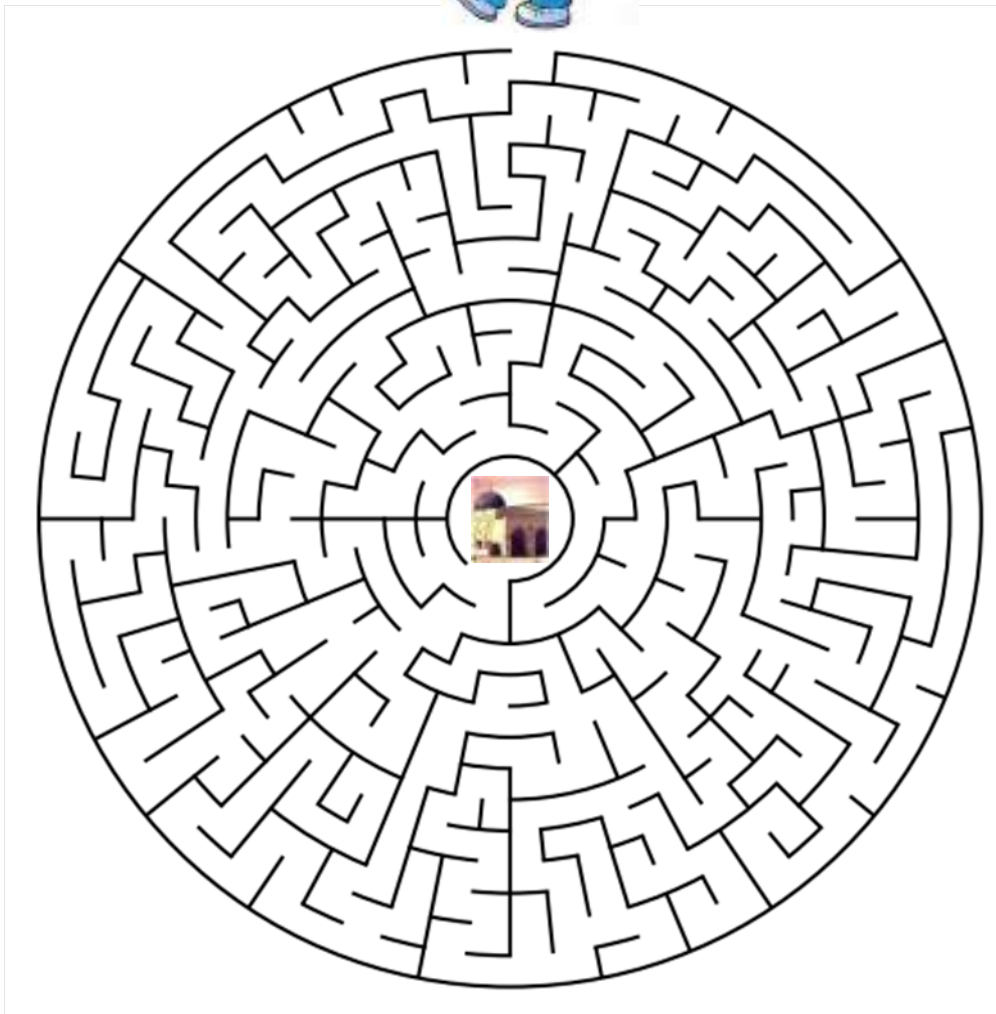
The map below is a closer look of Palestine, naming some of the main cities and surrounding countries.



HELP ME FIND MY WAY TO THE MASJID

Mohammed is travelling to Jerusalem with his family for a holiday to visit the Masaajid. Masjid Al-Aqsa is within the old walled city of Jerusalem. He has reached Jerusalem and now needs help finding the Masjid. Show him the way.

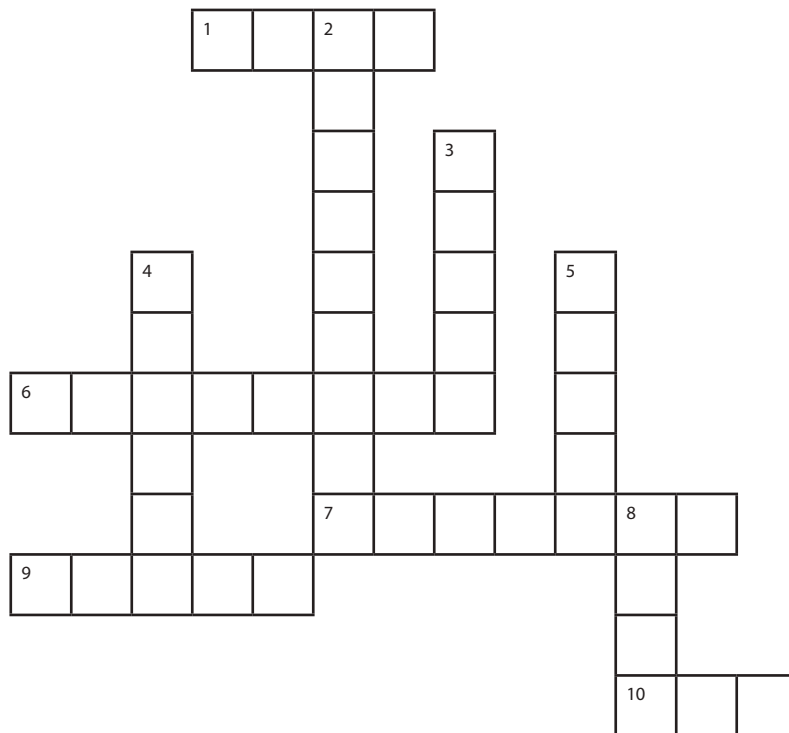
LET'S GO!



FIRST QIBLA

The first direction of prayer (Qibla) for the Muslims was Masjid Al-Aqsa.
After the Hijrah Allah commanded the Muslims to change the direction towards the Ka'bah.

Do you know what is the Hijrah?



Write the answers next to the word just to be sure before you attempt the crossword!

Across:

1. The first prayer of the day
6. We pray on this.
7. Prayer at sunset.
9. We must have before praying.
10. Third prayer of the day.

Down:

2. The Muslims first faced here to pray.
3. The direction we face when we pray.
4. Better for men to pray here
5. Prayer at lunchtime
8. Last prayer before bed

Second Masjid to be built On Earth

Masjid Al-Aqsa was the second Masjid to be built on Earth by Adam (as).

Adam (as) built Masjid Al-Aqsa 40 years after he first built the Kabah in Makkah.

This makes Masjid Al-Aqsa very important for Muslims as Allah ordered for it to be built by the very first man He put on Earth.

It has been destroyed and re-built many times over the centuries, and the land of Al-Aqsa is very important to Muslims because it has been blessed by Allah.

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message

THE	BUI	FI	PRO	T	RST	LT	PHE
BY	MA	N A	ND				



Use this space to work out your answer.



PROPHETS IN PALESTINE

Many Prophets lived in and visited Palestine in their life. Some only spent a short time of their life in Palestine and some were Kings and rulers of the land.

Unscramble the words to find out which Prophets lived in Palestine

UUFYS

--	--	--	--	--

8

WUADD

--	--	--	--	--

BIHMAIR

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

1

9

SUAM

--	--	--	--

3

NAMSYLAU

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

7

5

DMMAUHAM

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6

ASI

--	--	--

4

MYMRAA

--	--	--	--	--	--

QISHA

--	--	--	--	--

2

BUQAY

--	--	--	--	--

P		O	P		E	T						P			E		T			E
1			2			3		4	5			6	7		8		9		5	

IBRAHIM (AS)

Ibrahim (as) was born in a village called Ur, in a country we now call Iraq. The people of his village worshipped idols and had forgotten about Allah.



Ibrahim (as) knew that this was wrong. He informed his people an idol cannot see, eat, hear or speak; it cannot help or harm anything. Ibrahim (as) knew that worshipping idols was not something that would make Allah happy.

So, he tried to tell his people that what they were doing was wrong.

After years of preaching by Ibrahim (as), his people still refused to stop worshipping their idols.

After being rejected by his people, Ibrahim (as) was asked by Allah to migrate to the blessed land of Palestine, to the city of Jerusalem. Ibrahim (as) obeyed Allah and made Jerusalem his new home.

When Ibrahim (as) was ninety nine years old, Allah blessed him with a son from his first wife Sara. The child was named Ishaq, and Ishaq would also grow to be a Prophet of Allah.

Ishaq was born in Palestine, and spent his life in the blessed city of Jerusalem. Masjid al-Aqsa, which was originally built by Adam (as), had fallen into disrepair after many generations. When Ishaq was older, Ibrahim (as) and Ishaq rebuilt Masjid al-Aqsa together.



Ibrahim (as) spent most of his life in Jerusalem, and is buried very near Masjid al-Aqsa in a town called Khalil.

IBRAHIM (AS)

The following word search is based on the story of Ibrahim.

C	A	M	T	J	D	Z	O	K	U	I
M	O	X	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L
E	B	M	N	K	E	L	B	J	Q	B
C	I	S	M	C	Y	R	R	Y	H	P
I	S	A	R	A	L	H	A	J	A	R
F	M	W	B	F	N	Q	H	E	Z	O
I	A	N	T	L	O	D	I	P	I	P
R	E	L	C	A	R	I	M	R	X	H
C	E	A	U	K	U	F	V	E	D	E
A	L	G	E	I	D	P	A	O	N	T
S	C	V	W	G	S	H	T	S	E	T

Ibrahim
Festival
Commandment
Hajar

Sacrifice
Sara
Ismaeel
Idol

Test
Miracle
Prophet
Eid

YUSUF (AS)

Yusuf (as) descended from a long line of Prophets, beginning with the Prophet Ibrahim (as), who was his great grandfather. Yusuf (as)'s grandfather was Prophet Ishaq (as) and his father was Prophet Yakub (as).

Yusuf (as) had eleven brothers. They all lived near Jerusalem in Palestine.

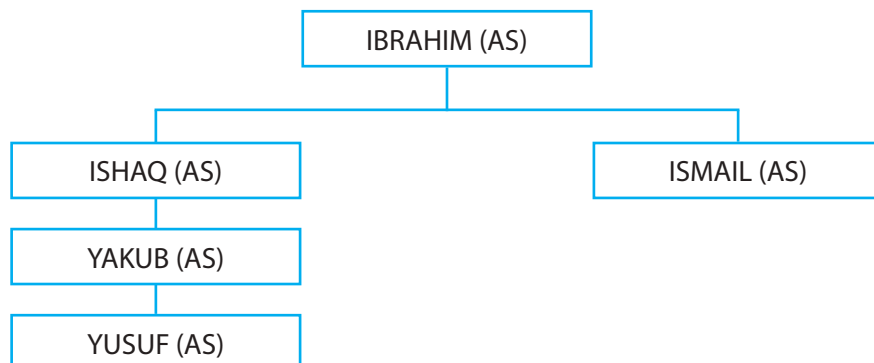
When Yusuf (as) was a young boy, he had a dream in which he saw the sun, the moon and eleven stars bow down to him.

Prophet Yusuf (as) told his father, Yakub (as), about his strange dream. Yakub (as) told him to be careful and not to tell anyone else about the dream.

Yakub (as) loved all of his sons. But they all, except Binyamin, felt jealous of Yusuf (as) because they thought their father loved Yusuf more than he loved them.

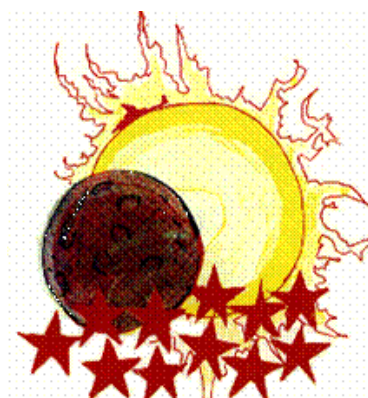
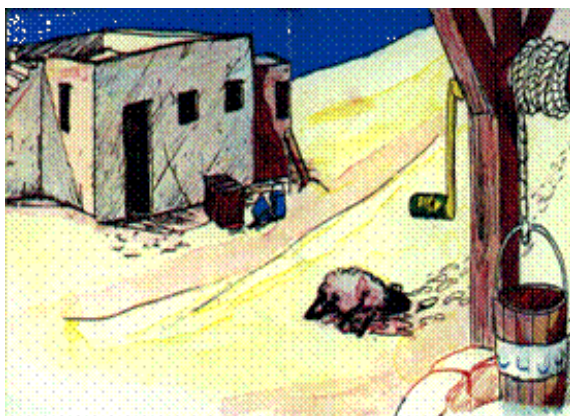
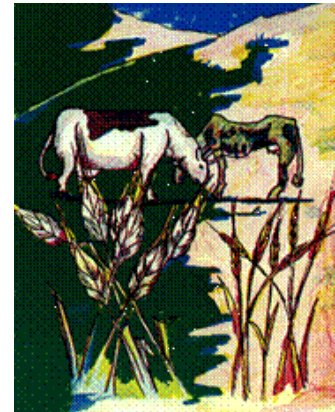


The brothers were so jealous of Yusuf (as) that they came up with a plan to get rid of him forever. One brother suggested that they should kill him. Others did not have the heart to kill him and thought it would be better to send him to a faraway place. Finally, they decided to throw him into a well. Travellers would find him when they stopped for water, and Yusuf (as) would disappear from the brothers' lives forever.



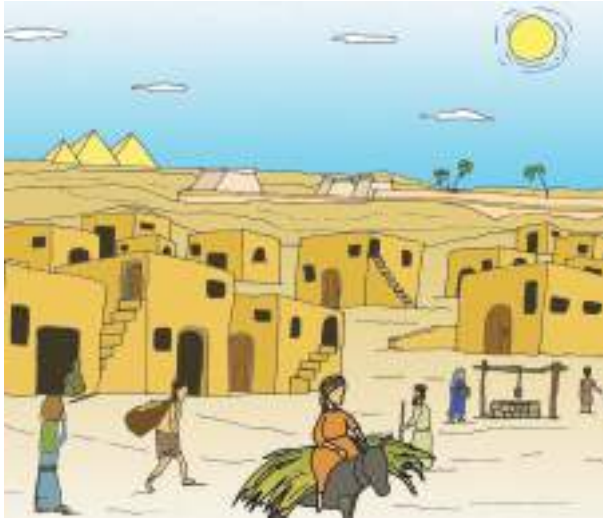
YUSUF (AS)

Cut out these images to create a story board of the life of Yusuf (as).
Add a brief description under each picture to describe what part of the
story the picture depicts.



STORYBOARD

MUSA (AS)



Musa (as) was born in Egypt, and was a direct descendant of Ibrahim (as). Musa (as) was born into the tribe of Banu Israel, also known as the Children of Israel.

The Banu Israel are said to have been favoured by Allah. But Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, treated them badly. He was a cruel King and the Banu Israel suffered under his rule.

Musa (as) left Egypt and settled in a place called Madyan. After many years he returned to Egypt.

He went to Pharaoh to deliver his message from Allah. Pharaoh was arrogant and mocked Musa (as). Musa (as) was blessed by Allah with the ability to perform miracles to show Pharaoh, but he still did not believe in Allah. Instead Pharaoh accused him of being a magician.

Pharaoh thought he was God and told Musa (as) if he continued to teach people about Allah he would be punished. Musa (as) and his followers fled Egypt towards Palestine. On the journey Musa (as) passed away and his followers settled in Palestine

Describe some of the miracles performed by Musa (as)

Allah says in the Quran 'And we gave Musa nine clear signs' (17:101)

DAWUD (AS)

Dawud (as) was a Prophet and king of Jerusalem for 40 years. During this time, there was peace between the different tribes, who lived in Palestine.

By the time Dawud (as) was king, Masjid Al-Aqsa was in ruins, so he decided to re-build it with his son Sulayman (as). But unfortunately he passed away before he completed the building work.

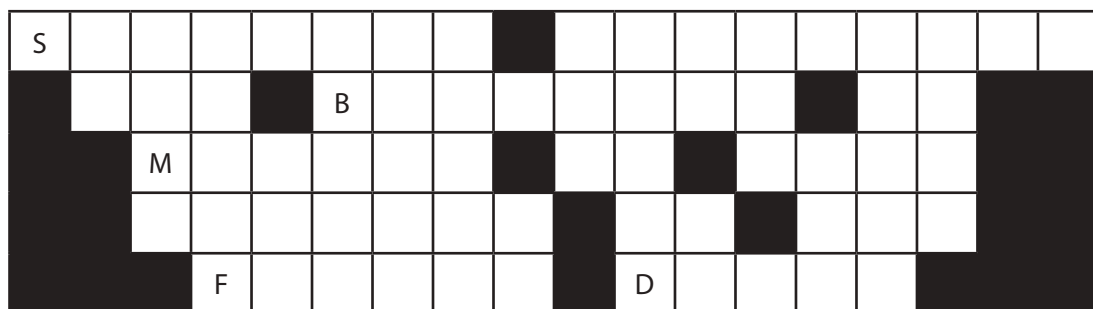
SULAYMAN (AS)

Sulayman (as) was the son of Dawud (as). Like his father he was also a Prophet and a King. Just like his father, Sulayman (as) was greatly loved by Allah.

Allah gifted Sulayman (as) with miracles that no other Prophet had. Sulayman (as) could understand and communicate with all kinds of animals, and he could command the wind. The jinn are unseen beings created by Allah, and Sulayman (as) was given the power to command them too.

Sulayman (as) completed the work of the building of Masjid Al-Aqsa that had been started by his father Dawud (as)

Solve the puzzle of fallen words. A few letters have been placed back in the correct place.



F J T E B D
M A A R I E I Y W Q S F
L E Y T H N D C O N G U O A
U S A A M A I R A L M A L E S
S T H T S B U D L D D A P H I T E D

ISA (AS)

Maryam (as) was the daughter of Imran, who was a pious man. Imran and his wife did not have any children, so they always prayed to Allah to bless them with a child. They promised Allah that they would dedicate their child to Masjid Al-Aqsa. Soon after, they were blessed with a daughter named Maryam.

Maryam spent much of her time praying in the Masjid, and was loved dearly by Allah. One day, a strange man entered her room. Maryam became very scared and tried to run away, but the man explained that he was an angel that had come with good news that she was going to have a child! Maryam was very confused - how could she have a child when she didn't have a husband?

The angel explained that this was Allah's wish and that Allah can do anything.

As the angel had promised, Maryam had a baby boy, called Isa (as), also known as Jesus.

Isa (as) was a Prophet of Allah and spent his days teaching people about Allah and about worshipping Him alone. Like his mother Maryam, he too spent much of his time in Palestine and around Masjid Al Aqsa.

Isa (as) was a great messenger and servant of Allah

Isa (as) was not the son of Allah, nor was he God

Isa (as) had a miraculous birth without a father

Isa (as) was sent to guide his people back to the straight path

KNOWLEDGE BUILDER ISLAMIC FACTS TO LEARN

Isa (as) was able to heal the blind and ill. He also brought someone back to life

Isa (as) was given a book called the Injeel

Isa (as) always spoke the truth and always obeyed Allah's command

One day, Isa (as) will come back and be a just Muslim ruler

A chapter in the Qur'an was named after Isa's (as) mother

His first miracle was that he spoke when he was still a baby

MUHAMMAD(SAW)

Date: 27 Rajab

Year: 721
(Sad year - 'Aam ul Huzn)

When Abu Talib and
Khadijah passed away

Sidrat al-Muntaha
Allah (swt)

Bayt al-Ma'mur

MIRAJ

He ascended to the Heaven
to speak to Allah (swt)

50 prayers were enjoined on
him, then reduced to 5

7th Heaven
Met Ibrahim (as)



6th Heaven
Met Musa (as)



Prophet Muhammad (saw)
rode **Buraq** during his
journey - a white animal,
smaller than a mule and
bigger than a donkey

5th Heaven
Met Harun (as)



4th Heaven
Met Idris (as)



3rd Heaven
Met Yusuf (as)



2nd Heaven
Met Isa (as) and Yahya (as)



1st Heaven
Met Adam (as)



Ka'bah
Makkah



Al-Aqsa Mosque
Jerusalem

ISRA'

The night journey - from Makkah to Jerusalem

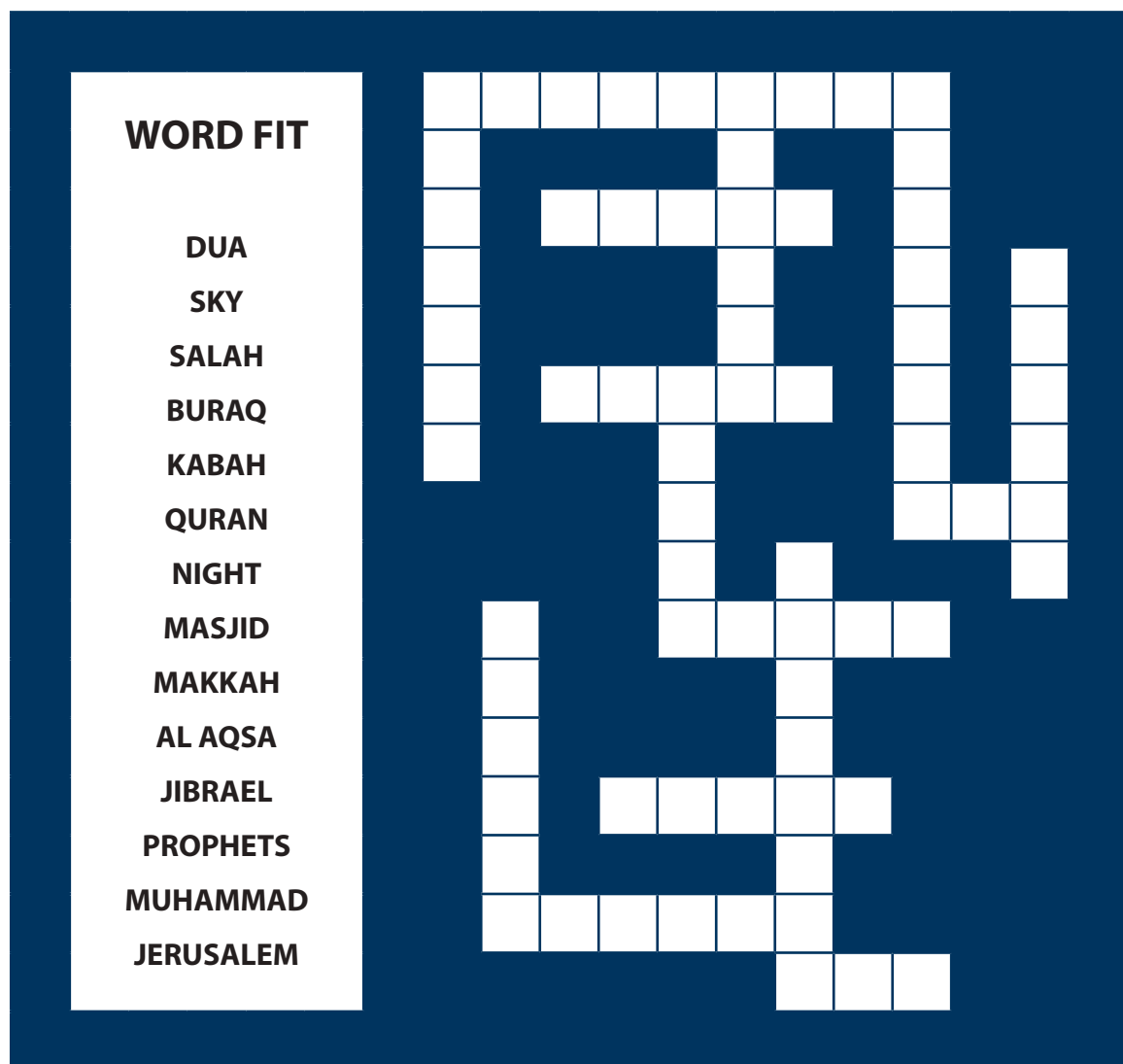
'All praise to Allah who took his servant by night from the
holy Masjid in Makkah to the furthest Masjid in Jerusalem,
whose surrounding we have blessed' (Al-Isra- Verse 1)

One of the reasons the Prophet Muhammad (saw) was taken to Jerusalem was to remind everyone about the first two Masjid's built on earth.

Prophet Muhammad (saw) was blessed with many things on this night and one special blessing was that he prayed in Masjid Al-Aqsa.

This prayer was no ordinary prayer. Allah brought together every single Prophet ever sent and allowed them all to pray behind Prophet Muhammad (saw). This was the only time all the Prophets have ever been together to pray in the same place.

Place the words in the column on the left into the crossword



PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

Match the Prophet to the fact

PROPHET

FACT

Musa

Thrown in the well

Ibrahim

Known to have a beautiful
voice

Muhammad (saw)

Understood the language of
the animals

Dawud

Son of Maryam

Isa

The final Prophet

Sulayman

Was put in a basket into the
river

Yusuf

Broke the idols.

Third holiest site in Islam

The Al-Aqsa sanctuary and Jerusalem has many virtues and blessings.

It is mentioned many times in the Quran and there are many Hadith relating to Masjid Al-Aqsa

Numerous Messengers and Companions of the Prophet are buried in Palestine.

Abu Darda (ra) relates that the Prophet (saw) said, "A prayer in Makkah (Ka'bah) is worth 1000,000 times (reward), a prayer in my Masjid (Madinah) is worth 1,000 times and a prayer in Al-Aqsa Sanctuary is worth 500 times more reward than anywhere else". (Tabarani)

Write a short poem about Masjid Al-Aqsa.

