

How is the Qur'an vital to Muslims today?

History of Islam

Islam began in Makkah in Saudi Arabia nearly 1500 years ago. The faith spread around the world and is now growing rapidly. It is a worldview which expects followers to develop self-control and show total respect to Allah. The Qur'an was written down in Arabic and has not changed since – it is a vital connection to Allah.

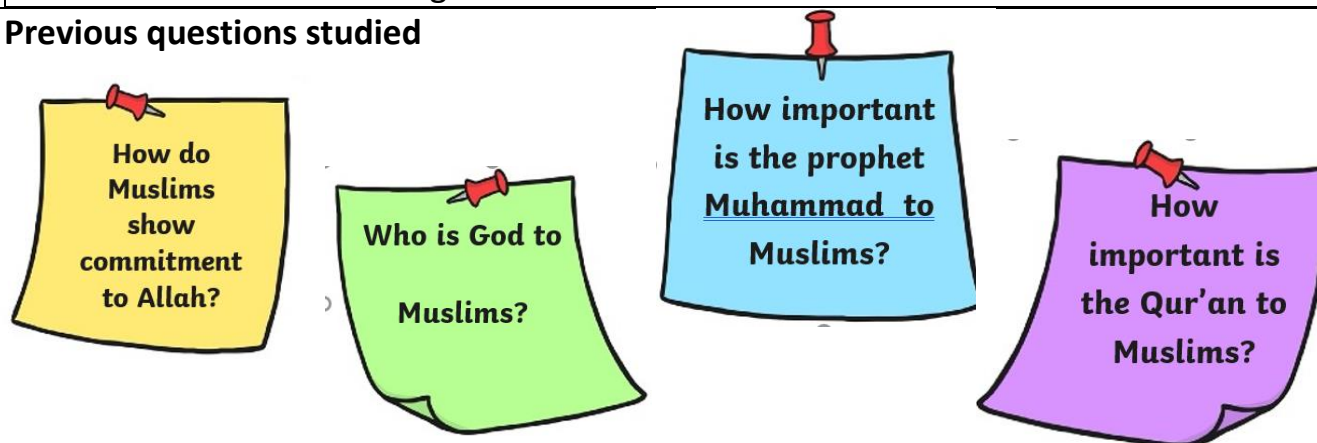
The Qur'an

The Qur'an is the holy book for Muslims, but it is also believed to be the actual words of Allah spoken in Arabic, the language chosen by Allah. It is treated with great respect and many Muslims will learn Arabic specially to understand the Qur'an in the language it was written in. Many Muslims take lessons in how to speak Arabic, including schoolchildren. These classes are often carried out in the Mosque, the Muslim place of worship.

How is the Qur'an respected?

- It is put on a stand when used, so it is not over touched
- When not used it is wrapped in a clean cloth
- When not being read it should be the highest book in the room
- It is never placed on the floor
- Muslims wash their hands before touching the Qur'an
- You must be in the right frame of mind – concentrate on Allah

Previous questions studied



Key terms and definitions

Muslim	A follower of the religion of Islam
Allah	Muslim name for God
Qur'an	Holy book for Muslims
Mohammad	Prophet chosen by Allah to receive the Qur'an
Night of Power	The name given to the time the first part of the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad
Surah	Chapter in the Qur'an
Kursi	A stand to put the Qur'an on
The Hadith	A collection of words and stories about Muhammad as a man – it gives advice on daily life – it is not as important as the Qur'an as it is not the word of Allah.
Calligraphy	Beautiful writing – often parts of the Qur'an are decorated to show how special it is.

The Qur'an is more than just a special book to Muslims – it is the direct word of Allah. It contains advice, instructions and guidance on how Muslims should lead their lives. Reading and respecting the Qur'an will probably play a part in everyday life.

