

Explore a Mosque

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The Explore a Mosque cards have been designed to promote religious literacy and interfaith dialogue. You can use the cards to carry out various learning processes in a mosque or use them in the classroom to study the significance of the objects in a mosque.

The tasks have been designed to support holistic learning. Students are invited to explore the space and its objects, to share their thoughts and to deepen their understanding of the space and the community that uses it. They also learn cultural and environmental awareness, including the ability to interpret material (e.g. buildings and artefacts) and immaterial culture (e.g. actions and traditions).



Visit to a Mosque

Work in the classroom

Plan the visit together with a representative of the community and agree on the distribution of tasks. The visit can proceed, for example, in the following way.

Material: Mosque object cards

Preparation before the visit to the mosque:

- Print the required amount of object cards double sided and cut them up.
- Make sure that the space contains the objects on the cards.

Outside the building:

Examine the building and its surroundings using the *Explore the mosque from outside* questions (card 5).

Material: the interactive picture of a mosque bit.ly/exploremosque, the object cards.

Preparations: Print the object cards double sided and cut them up.

1. Project the picture of the mosque on a screen. Explore it using the *Absorb the space* questions at the top of the picture.
2. Work in small groups. Every group is given one object card and the following instructions:
 - Imagine that the classroom is a mosque. The groups place the cards where they belong in the space and discuss the questions on the back of the card. For some of the questions, the answer can be found in the interactive picture.
 - Every group tells about their object: why did they place it in this particular spot? What thoughts and questions did the object raise?



Steps for exploring a space



1. Absorb the space.
Listen, smell, feel,
look around and move



2. Observe, examine
and interpret the
objects.



3. Create. Record, film,
photograph, draw, paint,
sculpt, write, compose or act



Authors:

Editing, instructions and exercises: Mari Huotari, Essi Ikonen and Salla Vainio

Illustrations: Johanna Nordblad

Layout: Mari Huotari

Experts: The Finnish-Islamic Congregation. Kadriye Bedretdin, Haris Bedretdin, Cingiz Safiulla, Ramil Belyaev

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3. The groups create something related to the mosque and its objects.
 - You can expand the task in various ways. The students can, for example, find out where the nearest mosque is, contact an Islamic community and find out what kind of rituals and activities are conducted in mosques, how mosques in different countries differ, etc.
4. Share and discuss the students' creations.



Inside the mosque:

1. Explore the space with the *Absorb the space* questions.
2. Examine in pairs. Spread the Object cards on the floor and give the following instructions:
 - Pick one object card.
 - Find the object in the space and go to it.
 - Pick one or two questions from the back of the card, and discuss them.

To deepen the understanding of objects, advice students to ask the representative of the community or see the interactive image of a mosque in bit.ly/exploremosque.

3. Alone, in pairs or in small groups. *Create* something that depicts the thoughts raised by the tasks.

Examine together what the students have created either straight away, or in the classroom after the visit.



Explore the mosque
from the outside



Absorb the space





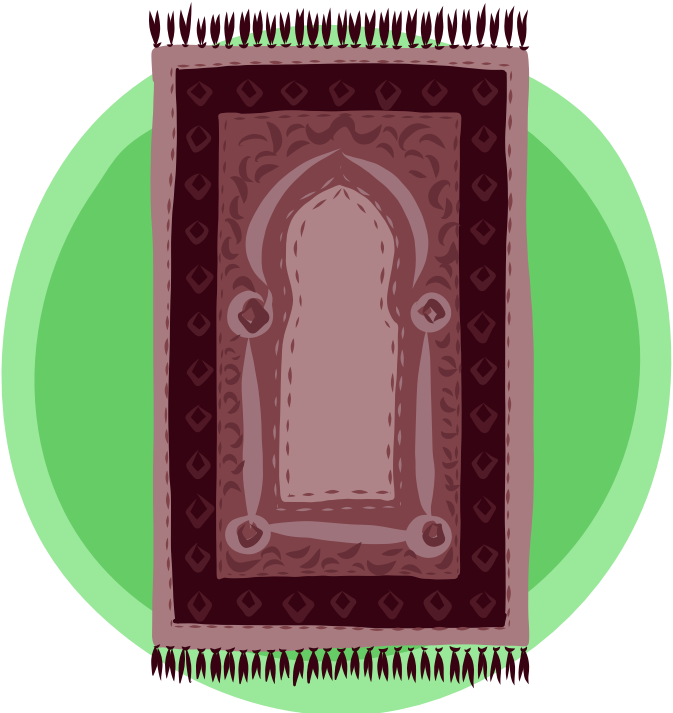
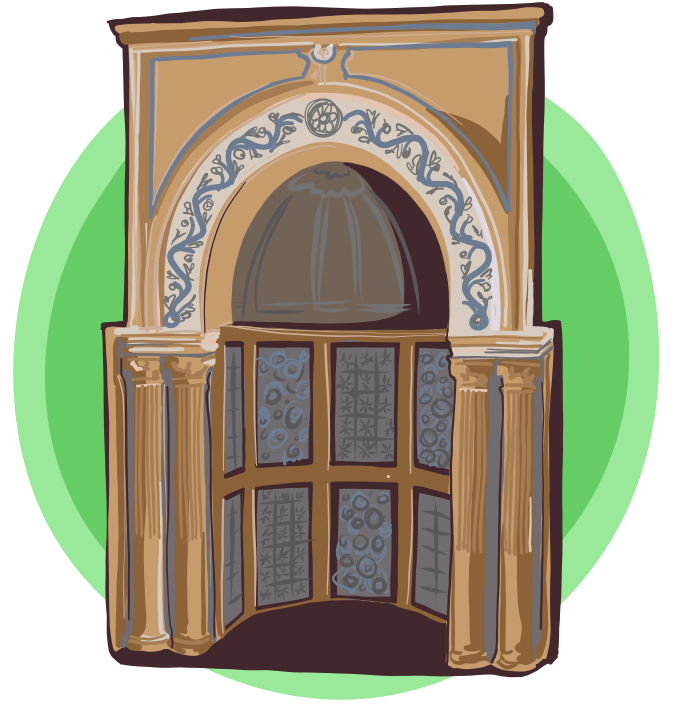
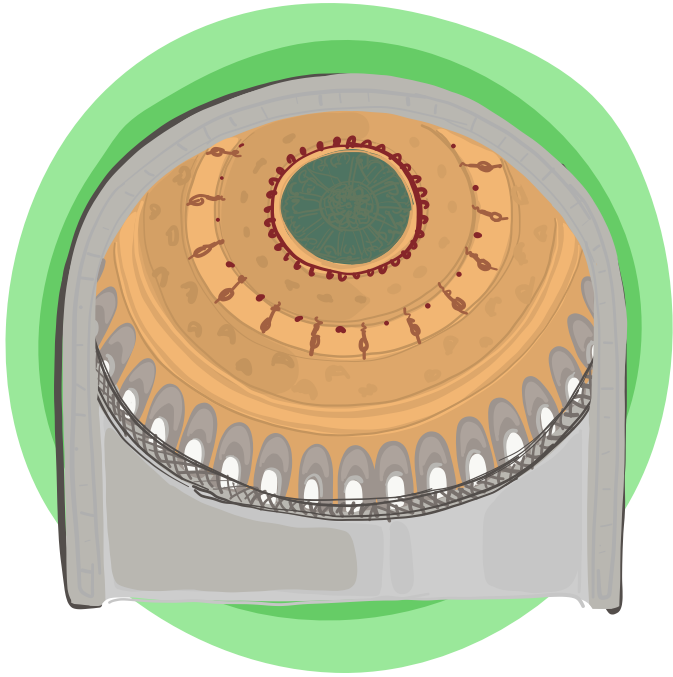
1. Find a place so that your hands are empty and you have empty space around you. Find a comfortable standing position. Breathe in and out a couple of times.
2. Take moment to look around you and let your eyes wander around the space.
3. Close your eyes.
How do you feel inside your body?
4. Smell. What scents can you smell?
5. What sounds can you hear in the space?
6. Open your eyes and look around you. What colours or shapes can you see?
7. What kind of light and shadows can you see? How are they formed?
8. How does the space guide people to move?
9. Find a spot in the space that is somehow familiar, strange or interesting. Go to it and feel its surface. How does it feel?
10. Share the thoughts and feelings the tasks raised in you.

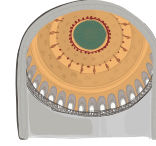
1. What does the building look like from the outside?
2. Is it new or old? What makes you think that?
3. What skills were needed to build it?
4. What is it used for?
5. What was important to those who built it?
6. In what kind of surroundings is the building located? Why was it built in this specific place?
7. Come up with three adjectives that describe it well.



1. What is this?
2. What material is it made of?
What skills were needed to make it?
3. Is it old or new? How long do you think it will last?
4. What makes it beautiful or ugly?
5. What is it used for in the space?
6. Where in the space is it located?
Why is it located in that specific spot?
7. Could it be replaced with something else? With what, and why?
8. What would you use it for?
9. Where else might you find something similar?

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Religious Spaces as Learning Environments

includes also:

Explore a
Lutheran
Church



Material online:

<https://www.uskonnonopetus.fi/in-english/>





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