

Reflecting on Religious Practices (Islam & Christianity)

Background information

- All cultures and religious traditions have certain ways of welcoming a new born child into the community.
- In Islam, the call to Prayer (*adhan*) are the first words the Muslim baby will hear. The father or a family elder will whisper these words in the baby's ear shortly after its birth. The baby's first taste should be something sweet, so parents may chew a piece of date and rub the juice along the baby's gums, or honey might be used.
- A Muslim wedding ceremony is known as a *nikah*, and is usually a simple ceremony. The bride does not have to be present as long as she sends two witnesses to the drawn-up agreement. Normally, the ceremony consists of readings from the Qur'an, and the exchange of vows in front of witnesses for both partners. No special religious official is necessary, but often the imam is present and performs the ceremony and gives a short sermon.
- In the Christian religion, the act of baptism welcomes the child into the Christian religion. Water is used in baptism and is a symbol of washing away sin and the start of a new life.
- Christians believe that marriage is a gift from God, one that should not be taken for granted. It is the right atmosphere to build a family life. Getting married in a church, in front of God, is very important.

Knowledge and Understanding

In this unit pupils will learn...

- To describe, make connections and reflect on some religious beliefs and practices studied, including how celebrations and key moments in life are marked (birth of a baby in the religions of Christianity and Islam)

Enquiry skills and Key concepts

- Use evidence to learn more about key moments in life in the Christianity and Islamic religions.
 - Describe ways and traditions of celebrating festivals
 - Present findings in creative ways
- Gather evidence to compare how key moments in life are marked by different religions
- Use a range of sources to find out new information.

Key Vocabulary:

Adhan – Muslim call to prayer

Allah – the name of God in Islam

Aqeeqah – celebration for the birth of a baby in Islam carried out on the 7th day after birth

Qur'an – the holy book of Islam

Bible – the holy book of Christianity

Baptism/Christening – the Christian religious rite of sprinkling water onto a person's forehead or immersing them in water symbolising admission into the Christian church

Nikah – Muslim wedding ceremony

Ramadam – Festival in Islam when Muslims fast