

## Story of Eid

### Eid ul-Adha

Eid ul-Adha, or 'feast of sacrifice', is sometimes known as greater Eid. It is celebrated at the end of Hajj. Muslims remember Ibrahim's obedience to God to the point that he would sacrifice his son, Ismail. Not only was Ibrahim willing to do this act, Ismail agreed, saying 'Father! Do what you have been commanded. If Allah wishes, you will find me to be patient' (Qur'an 37: 102). At the last moment God stopped Ibrahim, providing a lamb to sacrifice instead.

Ibrahim is an important figure in Islam. The Qur'an notes that, 'Ibrahim was truly an example: devoutly obedient to God and true in faith' (Q. 16:120). He is called 'Khalillullah', or 'friend of God'. It is believed that books, or 'scrolls', were revealed to Ibrahim through God, although they are now lost.

At Eid ul-Adha Muslims sacrifice an animal or order meat from the butcher. They share a family meal, as well as donate some meat to wider relatives and the poor. This is to show gratitude to God and compassion to others. Muslims make special Eid prayers and these are usually done together, usually at the mosque. They dress in smart clothes, greet each other warmly, visit friends and relatives, give gifts and cakes or sweets. In many Muslim countries Eid ul-Adha is a public holiday, joyous and full of fun.

**Use this information to create information about Eid ul-Adha:**

- 1) Why is this Eid called the 'feast of sacrifice'?
- 2) Why is Ibrahim honoured as a good Muslim at this festival?
- 3) Choose two elements of Ibrahim's life that help us understand modern Eid
- 4) Choose two elements of modern Eid ul-Adha to explain.

### Eid ul-Fitr

Eid ul-Fitr, or Feast of Sweets, heralds the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. Ramadan is a holy month in which the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad. During this month Muslims fast, pray, read the Qur'an and focus on their spiritual health.

Muhammad asked his followers to celebrate twice a year; at Eid ul-Adha and Eid ul-Fitr. Eid ul-Fitr encapsulates the community aspects of Islam after a month of prayer and reflection. Muslims wake up, eat a sweet breakfast and attend the mosque for Eid prayers. They greet each other warmly, wear their best clothes and decorate their houses. Muslims forgive and make amends at this time. A great deal of money, food or goods is donated to those in need. Food is shared at celebratory meals, children receive gifts, members of the community share and receive in a joyful spirit.

**Use this information to create information about Eid ul-Fitr:**

- 1) Why is this Eid called the 'feast of Sweets'?
- 2) How have Muslims spent the month preceding Eid ul-Fitr? Why?
- 3) Choose two elements of modern Eid ul-Fitr to show how Eid ul-Fitr is about community.