

BROADCAST DATES

Programmes are broadcast on Radio Ulster, medium wave, every Tuesday morning from 11.20 - 11.40 am.

Programme	Title	Broadcast Date
1	Festivals Through the Year	14.09.04
2	Festivals: Divali	21.09.04
3	Festivals: Ramadan	28.09.04
4	Festivals: Chinese New Year	05.10.04

PROGRAMME 3 – FESTIVALS: RAMADAN**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the programme pupils should be able to

- Understand the importance the Islamic community places on fasting during the month of Ramadan
- Appreciate the discipline required to participate during Ramadan
- Learn that the fast is one of the five pillars of Islam and be aware of the other four elements
- Recognise and value the diversity of cultural and religious beliefs of other local communities
- Learn the need for respect and tolerance of the beliefs of others

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Nine year old Ridwaan was born in Belfast, but his father is from Palestine and his mother from Syria and the family are Muslim. During the programme, he introduces his friend John-William to the five pillars of Islam and in particular, the fast during Ramadan.

The pillars: belief in Allah, daily prayer, fasting during the month of Ramadan, giving to charity and sharing with those less fortunate and the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once.

We learn that there are nearly a billion Muslims in the world and that it's the fastest growing religion. There are strict rules about food – no pork, so no Ulster fries, and no alcohol. The five pillars influence much of daily life for a Muslim, prayer five times a day, but specially on Friday at the mosque where Ridwaan goes with his father.

John-William has fasted for a day for a charity and knows how hungry he got. Ridwaan explains that the Muslim fast lasts for the whole month of Ramadan, when the fast begins at dawn and ends at sunrise – much easier in the winter than in the summer! It's a good way to identify with the poor and the hungry around the world too. A lot more prayer than usual is called for, and he really enjoys the month as his family is a lot closer. If you're too old or too sick to fast, you make a payment to a charity for each day that you can't take part.

Ridwaan's mum remembers what it was like during Ramadan when she was a child in Syria when most of their neighbours were taking part.

The festival of Eid follows when everyone gets together to have special feasting, children get sweets and presents and new clothes, and local children get a day off school. At the mosque, everyone meets for prayer just before the celebration.

Key words used during programme:	Muslim, Islam, Allah, Koran, prophet, Mohammad, mosque, fasting, pilgrimage, Ramadan, Eid
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USEFUL WEBSITES:

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/islam

Aimed at slightly older children, this is a good summary for general background information on Islam.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/find_out/guides/uk/religious_festivals/newsid_1656000/1656412.stm

The CBBC Newsround guide to religious festivals with information on most of the main ones.

www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam

A more detailed site with information useful for teachers.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES - Before the Programme

Activity	Tasks	Worksheets	Relevance to NI Curriculum
WHOLE CLASS			
Discussion	<p>Being in the minority To help the children think through the feelings of isolation felt by ethnic minority groups living in NI, and to understand the importance of meeting with others from that community, encourage them to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss what they would miss about their favourite celebration if their family moved to another country where almost no one shared that festival • How would they feel when no one knew anything about their festival? • How would they feel if people misunderstood their festival and were suspicious of them? • What would make them feel better? <p>Explain that the Today and Yesterday programme they're going to listen to is presented by a Muslim boy from Belfast, who finds himself in a religious minority in NI.</p>		<p>English Talking and listening skills</p> <p>Vocabulary development</p>

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES - During the Programme

Activity	Tasks	Worksheets	Relevance to NI Curriculum
INDIVIDUAL			
Listening and Comprehension	<p>Listening to the programme Before the programme begins, distribute worksheet 1 – a multiple choice quiz. All the answers are to be found in the programme, so careful listening is called for. After the programme, check the answers and find out who was really listening!</p>	Worksheet 1 The Easiest Quiz Ever	English Listening for comprehension

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES - After the Programme

Activity	Tasks	Worksheets	Relevance to NI Curriculum
INDIVIDUAL/GROUPS			
Discussion on Fasting and the benefits of discipline	<p>Fasting and discipline A fast can be a period of doing without something – it doesn't have to be food or drink!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the purpose of a fast? • How would it make you feel? <p>Muslims fast from dawn to dusk for 30 days, and pray more than the usual 5 times a day. This takes a lot of discipline.</p>		Personal Development Developing tolerance and mutual respect
Preparation for a class debate on the benefits of discipline	<p>Children use the preparation sheet to work through the pros and cons of being disciplined about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • music or sport practice • helping at home • religious observance <p>They record their position before a class debate. Does anyone change their mind after the debate?</p>	Worksheet 2 Prep sheet for debate on the discipline of fasting	English Recording and ordering arguments for debate

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES - After the Programme

Activity	Tasks	Worksheets	Relevance to NI Curriculum
INDIVIDUAL/GROUPS			
Art	<p>Sunset skyline With a day long fast, the setting sun is a welcome sight for Muslims during Ramadan. To make a sunset skyline;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss the colours of a good sunset. • Using these colours, either colourwash a white page in a landscape position or using tissue or other fabrics, create a sky at sunset effect • On black paper, draw an outline of buildings – don't forget local landmarks • Cut the outlines out and stick them over the (dried!) sunset wash. <p>A long, group piece could be used as part of a wall display about Ramadan.</p>		<p>Art Observing and recording.</p>
Discussion on poverty and a class response	<p>Sharing with others Muslims must give money to charity for each day of Ramadan they can't fast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it important to share what we have with others? • What does being "poor" really mean? • What does being "hungry" really mean? <p>Find out about local charities who support people who are "poor" and/or "hungry". Consider a class activity that might engage with this. Why not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise a class collection box for small change • Have a fund raising event – make cards or buns and sell them at breaktime <p>Have a one day "fast" from tv, or something else they enjoy!</p>		<p>Personal Development Developing tolerance and mutual respect</p> <p>Developing an understanding of the imbalance of the world around them</p> <p>Promoting an awareness of the difference between need and want</p>