

L.O. I can consider and discuss the different views about why mosques are important.

\*\*\*Laptops needed for this lesson

Remember our unit question: Is it better to express your religion in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?

**Think Pair Share: What do you know about mosques, Muslims and the Muslim community?**

In Islamic art and architecture, there are no images of Allah, and for many Muslims no image of humans because they mislead rather than enlighten us. Instead, geometric and natural pattern is used to create beauty. What do you think?



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks2-my-life-my-religion-east-london-mosque/zmctvk7>



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/inside-the-mosque-what-do-you-need-to-know/zr3f2sg>



The first two mosques in the UK were built in 1889, in Liverpool and Woking.

Over the last 130 years, more and more mosques have opened: there are currently about **1,750**. There are about **40,000** church buildings, as a point of comparison). The mosques serve the Muslim community, which is about **5%** of the people in the UK, about **3 million** people.

Woking



Liverpool



**Task 1:** In pairs, use the laptop to research mosques within Wakefield. Use your map skills to try and locate them and look at some images of the buildings.

Do you recognise them? Has anyone ever been?

**Task 2:** Why does Britain have more than 1,750 mosques?

With your partner, look at the cards which give 9 possible answers to this question. Cut them up and rank them: which give the best explanation of the reasons for the number of Mosques in our country?

Ask pupils to add a sentence to each one, saying why it is a good explanation (or not).

**Task 3: Beautiful Mosques**

1. With your partner, search 'mosque' on the FLICKR website and select, cut and paste 3 pictures each [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)
2. Choose the mosques that you feel are beautiful. Paste them on to a Powerpoint page- all 6 need to fit on one page and print them off.
3. Stick your chosen 3 in your book and write 5 words for each building to best describe it's beauty.
4. Complete the sentences:  
'I think this one is beautiful because...'  
'I think Muslims might find this a good place to pray because they might feel...'

**Which idea is best?**

Let's read through and discuss the relative strength of these four ideas:

1. "A mosque should be beautiful because it is for a beautiful activity: praying to the Creator of beauty is easier in the beautiful surroundings."
2. "Mosques are not an alternative to giving money for the poor: Muslims do both because worshipping Allah and helping the needy are both really important."
3. "God hears your prayer anywhere. No special place is needed to pray. A clean heart, a clean body and a clean prayer mat are all you need. So Muslims today should spend less on mosques and more on feeding the poor."
4. Prophet Muhammad [PBUH] said that whoever builds a mosque on earth, God will build them a house in Paradise, so it is a good way to prepare for life after death."