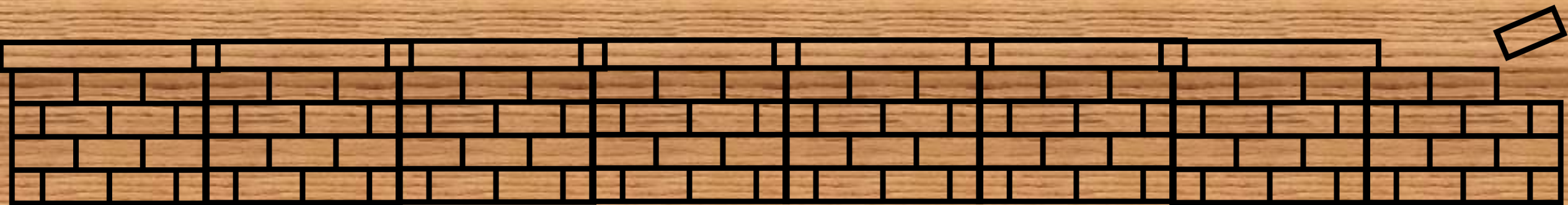


What makes us
special, what makes
us the same



Our Ground Rules

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for writing ground rules. It occupies the central portion of the page.

Today we are learning...

That we all have things that make us ***different*** to one another – either in the way we are or the choices we make. These differences are **great**, and we can build a culture of respect around them that unites us!

We will learn:

- ✓ About *similarities* and *differences*
- ✓ That these similarities and differences can include our beliefs, or our faith
- ✓ About one example of a faith, *Islam*, and more about those that believe in Islam - *Muslims*
- ✓ How respecting people's differences makes us stronger together



Common Connectors



Every single one of us has things that make us *special*, unique and **different**. We all have things that unite us and make us the same too.

Class activity: Starting with one pupil, share with the class one thing that makes you different. For example, “My favourite animal is a koala!” Ask the class if there is anyone else that shares this special fact with you and hold out your hand to them. That second person must then, in turn, share a unique and interesting fact about them. Once again, turn to the class to see who shares this amazing feature and hold hands with that person. Repeat this until the whole class is united by their differences and similarities!



Did that make you think...?

What does seeing our whole class connected by our special traits tell us? Is it our respect that connects us?

Turn to your partner and discuss or draw in a VENN diagram:

- One way you are different to each other
- One way you are the same as each other





Ways we are different....

FAITH

Different people can believe different things. This includes their faith – or religion.

These faiths are often how people identify – you can be Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist. Or you can have no faith, or not believe in God, like atheists.

There are many similarities between these religions. One similarity is that each faith tells us to respect one another.

Today we are going to learn more about one faith....

Islam

Islam is the second largest religion in the world.

People who follow the religion Islam are **Muslim**.

There are nearly 2 billion Muslims in the world.

Muslims live all over the globe – including in Europe, Africa and Asia – and they belong to **many different cultures**, speak **many different languages** and eat **many different types of food**.

Islam is **monotheistic**. This means Muslims believe in one God, just like Christian and Jewish people. Also like Jewish and Christian people, Muslims have:

- a holy book (**Quran**),
- special buildings they pray in (**Mosques**)
- they believe in things like giving to charity and being kind to animals.

Story Time: Aisha's Eid

Aisha is seven years old. She lives in the Midlands with her Mum, Dad, little brother, and her cat Oreo.

Aisha is Muslim and twice a year she celebrates a festival called Eid.

We will be joining Aisha on one of her special Eid days!

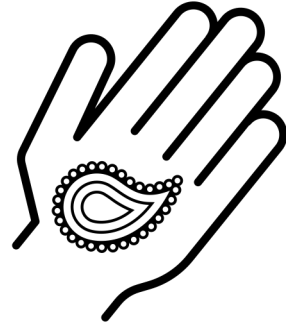
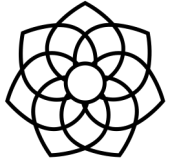
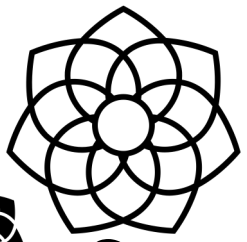


Story Time: Aisha's Eid Morning

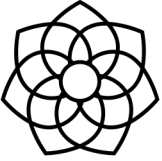
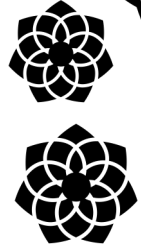
Aisha wakes up bright and early on Eid morning – the night before Aisha's mum and dad were busy decorating the house for their special Eid day – she can see bright, inviting lights glowing from outside her room!

Aisha is so excited, she rushes out of bed to start the day! Every year Aisha's parents lay out a sweet trail that leads her and her brother to their Eid gifts. Aisha and her brother carefully follow the row of brightly coloured sweets, down the corridor and into the living room to reveal a mountain of neatly wrapped treasures. Aisha doesn't waste a moment, tearing into the shiny, crinkly wrapping paper to reveal a new pair of roller skates, some slime, some new hair clips, chocolate, a nail varnish kit, as well as a remote control car, and dinosaur pyjamas for her brother.



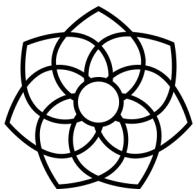


Story Time: Getting ready!



Aisha shares a special Eid breakfast with her family – it includes traditional Moroccan sweet treats that they don't usually eat everyday. Aisha always looks forward to this part!

Aisha then gets changed into her new dress which she chose with her Mum. Her special accessory is her Eid henna – an intricate pattern dyed onto her hands in anticipation from the night before Eid. Aisha looks forward to seeing the colour of the dye develop on her hands, and she always selects the pattern she wants very carefully.





Story Time: Aisha goes to the Mosque

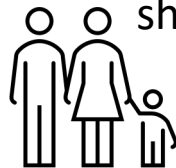


Aisha cannot wait to leave with her family for the Mosque, and has her shoes on before everyone else!



They pull up to the towering building and Aisha can see lots of people, dressed in their special clothes, smiling as they walk up its entrance. Aisha and her family meet lots of their Muslim friends as they join – they hug and greet each other with proclamations of ‘Eid Mubarak!’

Aisha, and all the people in the Mosque do a special Eid prayer inside the hall of the building. Aisha loves the prayer because it sounds beautiful and it is calming to listen to, it also reminds her of how much she has to be grateful for. It is her time to thank God.



Story Time: Aisha visits family

After the Mosque, Aisha's goes to her grandma's house where there is a big feast of all her favourite foods. She plays with her cousins, exchanges gifts, has lots of fun. She laughs ALOT!

Aisha gets to break so many rules on Eid because it is a celebratory day. She is allowed more sweets than usual and an extra helping of ice cream at the end of the day.

The thing Aisha likes most about Eid is that everyone is together, and happy, and she gets to give and receive so many lovely gifts.



Story Time: the end of Eid day

By the end of the day Aisha is exhausted from all the fun and excitement, and is often carried, in deep sleep, from her car to the inside of her house!

Once she is finally ready, and lying in her bed, Aisha likes to think back over all the great things that happened that day. She isn't quite ready to part with Eid, and likes to hold onto its memory.

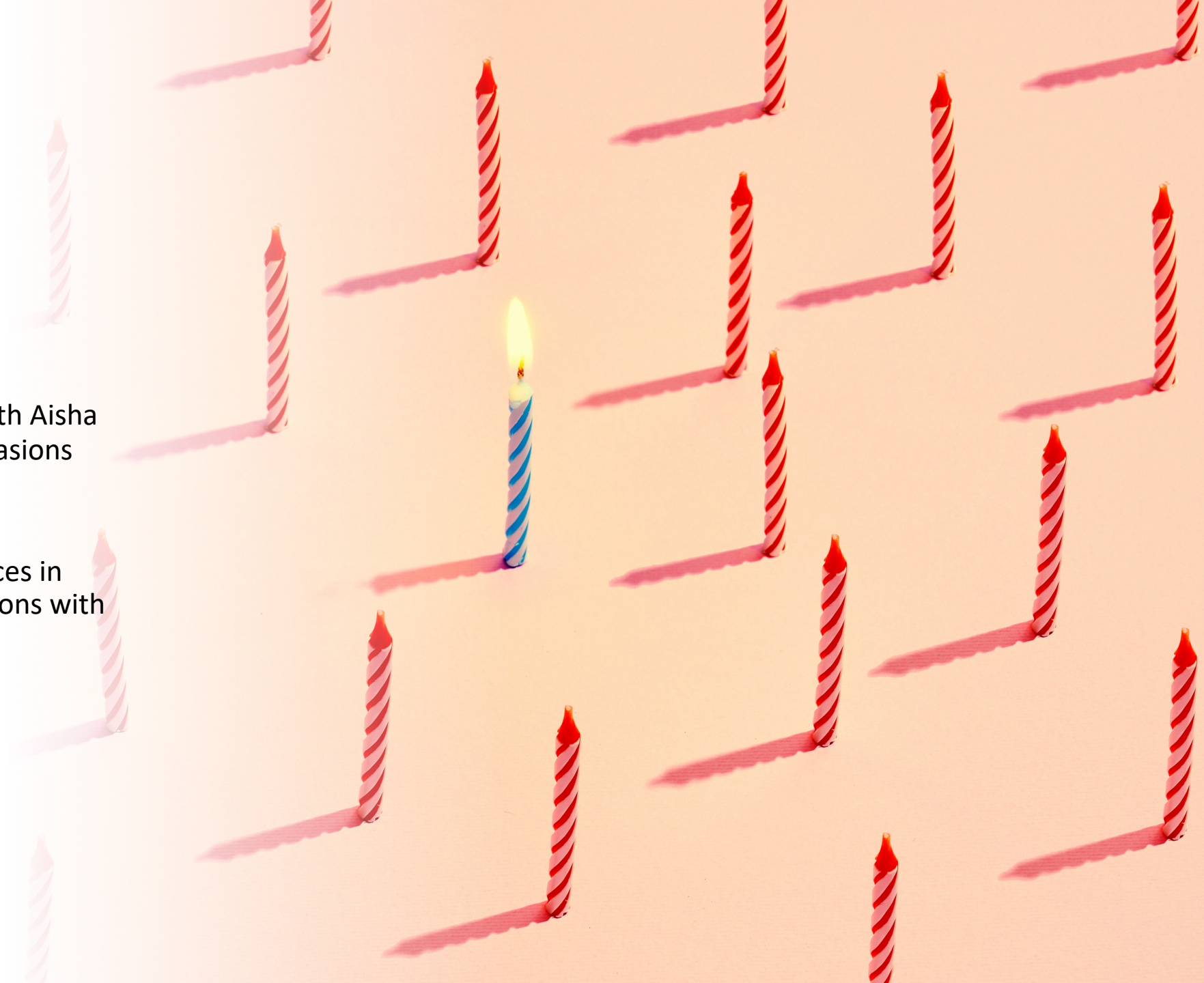
Aisha soon falls asleep knowing she still has her toys to play with tomorrow, and maybe some left-over sweets too!



What did I recognise?

What similarities do you have with Aisha in how you celebrate special occasions with your family or loved ones?

What were some of the differences in how you celebrate special occasions with your family or loved ones?



Who remembers our common connector exercise..?



Thinking back to the exercise we did at the beginning of the lesson – how we learned we are all special, and unique, and how that is what connects us as a class!

What has it taught you about how we can build relationships with people that are different to us?

Visiting a Mosque!

- Now you have learned more about Aisha, and what makes her special or different to others, perhaps you might like to learn more about Islam. Why not
 - Visit your local Mosque and speak to their team about what you've learned
 - Ask a Muslim neighbour or friend what makes them different as Muslims and what makes them the same
 - Do some more research about Eid and different ways Muslims celebrate it across the globe!
 -

Visit My Mosque:

'FAITH, FOOD & FRIENDS'

A national initiative by the Muslim Council of Britain encouraging mosques across the UK to hold open days to **#welcomein** their neighbours across all faiths and none.

REGISTER YOUR MOSQUE & CENTRE NOW TO TAKE PART

www.visitmymosque.org



SAVE THE DATE!



SEPTEMBER 2023

