<u>WALT to design a Muslim prayer mat</u>

Recently you learnt about the five pillars of Islam, one of which is 'salat' (prayer).

Today's lesson you will learn more about the practice of prayer and the significant features of a prayer mat.

1. Think about the following questions:

What is a prayer mat?   When is it used?   Why is it important?

2. Read the text below and highlight important information you will need to design your prayer mat.

During Islamic prayers, worshippers bow, kneel, and prostrate on the ground in humility before God. The only requirement in Islam is that prayers be performed in an area that is clean. But they have become a traditional way for many Muslims to ensure the cleanliness of their place of prayer and to create an isolated space to concentrate in prayer.

Prayer rugs are usually about one meter long, just enough for an adult to fit comfortably when kneeling or prostrating. Modern, commercially produced rugs are often made of silk or cotton.

While some rugs are made in solid colours, they are usually adorned. The designs are often geometric, floral or show Islamic landmarks. They are usually designed so that the rug has a definite "top" and "bottom" -the bottom is where the worshipper stands, and the top points towards the direction of prayer.

When the time for prayer comes, the worshipper lays the rug on the ground, so that the top points towards the direction of Mecca. After prayer, the rug is immediately folded or rolled and put away for the next use. This ensures that the rug remains clean.

3. Look at the different prayer mats, what do you notice? What similarities can you see?

4. Task: Design your own prayer mat.
   WIN:
   - Be at least 3 different colours
   - Include geometric patterns
   - Include flowers, pictures of mosques or Arabic writing
   - Have a definite "top" and "bottom"
   - NOT INCLUDE FACES, PEOPLE or ANIMALS

Key language

Prostrate – Lying stretched out on the ground with one's face downwards.

Geometric designs – shapes that are visually appealing. E.g. circles, squares etc