Name: ..... **Date:** .....

The hajj

Lesson 8 · the pilgrimage to Mecca

📖 **The story: The hajj**
Read together, part by part.

Part 1 – Aunt Fatma leaves

Aunt Fatma is going on hajj this year. She has saved for it for twenty years. The evening before she leaves, the whole family comes round. Sami is fifteen and looks at her suitcase: two white cloths, a small prayer mat, sandals and a little book of du'as. "Is that all?" he asks. "On hajj you don't need much," says Aunt Fatma. She asks everyone to forgive her for mistakes she ever made. Sami finds that strange and beautiful at the same time. "Why do you do that?" "I want to leave with a light heart," she says. "Without quarrels in my luggage."

☆ **You leave for hajj with a light heart.**

save = put money aside for later · **luggage** = what you take on a journey

Part 2 – In Mecca

Every evening Aunt Fatma sends a message with photos. In Mecca she wears the ihram: simple clothing. Men wear two white cloths, so that everyone is equal, rich or poor. She does the tawaf: seven times around the Ka'ba. Then she walks seven times between the hills of Safa and Marwa, as Hajar once did when she was looking for water for her son Isma'il. "It's busy," she writes. "Millions of people, from all countries, all colours. And yet my heart is quiet." Sami shows the photos to his class. His English teacher finds them impressive.

☆ **Seven times around the Ka'ba, seven times between Safa and Marwa.**

ihram = the state and clothing of the pilgrim · **tawaf** = going around the Ka'ba

Part 3 – The day of Arafa

On the ninth day of the month of Dhul-Hijja, Aunt Fatma stands on the plain of Arafa. That is the most important moment of the hajj. She prays the whole afternoon, until the sun sets. At home Sami fasts that day, because fasting on the day of Arafa is a beautiful sunna for those who are not on hajj. The next day is 'Eid al-Adha, the feast of sacrifice. Two weeks later Aunt Fatma is back at the door. She is tired, but she is glowing. She has brought a little bottle of zamzam water for everyone. "What was the most beautiful thing?" asks Sami. She thinks for a long time. "That no one there was better than anyone else."

☆ **Arafa is the heart of the hajj.**

plain = large flat piece of land · **glow** = look very happy

💬 **Let's talk:** Aunt Fatma asked everyone to forgive her before she left. When would you like to do that too?

💡 Did you know? – The hajj in short

- The hajj is the fifth pillar. It is obligatory once in your life, if you are healthy and can afford it.
- Every year about two million people go on hajj. The ‘umra is a shorter pilgrimage you can make all year round.
- Zamzam is the spring that welled up for Hajar and Isma‘il. It still gives water today.

📖 From the Quran

Quran 3:97

وَلِلَّهِ عَلَى النَّاسِ حِجُّ الْبَيْتِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ إِلَيْهِ سَبِيلًا

Wa li-llaahi ’ala n-naasi hijju l-bayti mani stataa’a ilayhi sabilaa.

“Pilgrimage to the House is a duty to Allah for everyone who can find a way to it.”

The hajj

Lesson 8 · questions and writing

✔ Questions

Tick the correct answer.

1. How long did Aunt Fatma save?

- ◯ twenty years
- ◯ two years

2. What does she ask everyone before she leaves?

- ◯ forgiveness
- ◯ money

3. How many times do you walk around the Ka‘ba?

- ◯ three times
- ◯ seven times

4. Who looked for water between Safa and Marwa?

- ◯ Khadija
- ◯ Hajar

5. What is the most important moment of the hajj?

- ◯ the journey home
- ◯ the day of Arafa

6. What does Aunt Fatma bring back?

- ◯ a phone
- ◯ zamzam water

☆ **Remember this:** The hajj: once in your life, if you are able.

✍ Think and write

Answer in a few sentences.

1. Why do the men on hajj all wear the same white cloths?

2. What did Aunt Fatma mean by: no one there was better than anyone else?

Puzzles

Lesson 8 · The hajj

🔤 Word search

Find the words: from left to right and from top to bottom.

A	B	F	F	F	M	E	C	C	A	A
M	A	M	S	F	E	M	A	F	A	T
M	Z	M	A	C	Z	A	H	A	A	F
R	A	K	R	A	M	F	A	T	T	W
A	M	M	A	A	S	A	J	M	F	R
A	Z	M	F	A	A	A	J	A	K	B
S	A	A	A	C	F	Z	W	F	R	C
M	M	K	A	B	A	R	F	M	F	A
A	T	Z	A	B	B	M	A	R	W	A
M	T	T	A	W	A	F	F	M	F	M
A	A	C	A	I	H	R	A	M	A	Z

☐ ZAMZAM ☐ MECCA ☐ IHRAM ☐ TAWAF ☐ MARWA ☐ ARAFA ☐ FATMA ☐ HAJJ ☐ KABA ☐ SAFA

🔍 Spot the 7 differences

Something is missing, bigger, smaller, turned or moved.

