

What do I need?

Printed copy of page 3

A5 coloured card

Scissors

Glue

Colouring pens

Other craft materials such as patterned paper, tissue paper, glitter, etc.
(optional)



Eid al-Fitr greetings card

What do I do?

Look at page 2 to learn about the Islamic festival of Eid al-Fitr, the "Festival of Breaking the Fast."

Fold a sheet of coloured card in half, then cut two parallel slits about 2cm long and 2-3cm apart in the middle of the folded edge.

Unfold the card and use your fingers to gently push the tab (the piece of card between the slits) towards you. Refold the card, then run your fingers along the fold so that it's firmly creased. Crease the tab section in the opposite direction so that it sticks out from the rest of the card.

Cut out the crescent moon and star templates on page 3. Trace them onto another piece of card and cut them out.

Now stick them onto the tab section so they pop out of the card when it's opened! Feel free to use a different pop-out shape for your card if you'd prefer, such as a Mosque or the greeting 'Eid Mubarak'.

Fold another sheet of coloured card in half, then stick the piece with the pop out section inside it, taking care to line up the edges.

Now it's time to decorate the outside of your greetings card using any craft materials you have to hand. Why not cut shapes from patterned paper, or draw a design in glue and cover it with glitter?

Once you've finished, write a message inside your card and give it to a friend or family member who is celebrating Eid.

Eid al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr is a festival marking the end of Ramadan - the Islamic month of fasting and spiritual reflection. While Eid celebrations differ between countries, Muslims generally start the day with prayers before enjoying a big celebratory meal and gift exchange with family and friends.

In Morocco, Eid begins early on the first morning after the end of Ramadan. Men gather in mosques for communal prayer while the women prepare a special breakfast with Moroccan pancakes known as *m'semen* (مسمن), for the family to share after morning prayers. During the rest of the day, families join together for meals and to give gifts - especially to young children. Moroccans customarily buy new clothes to wear on Eid, often in the form of traditional Moroccan dress.

In all Islamic cultures, a very important Eid al-Fitr tradition is Zakat, or giving to charity. This is one of the five pillars of the Islamic faith. Specifically during Eid the practice is known as Zakat al-Fitr and Muslims are encouraged to give out in advance so that everyone is able to join in with the Eid celebrations.

In many countries you'll see people hugging and sharing goodwill in the streets as a sign of friendship, with traditional greetings including Eid mubarak! (blessed Eid) and Eid sa'id! (happy Eid). Sweet treats such as baklava, dates and Turkish delight are a typical feature of Eid al-Fitr too.



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