



Islam



THE MOSQUE



Can you hear the call to prayer?

- Very often Mosques have a domed roof and a tall tower called a minaret. Muslims are called to prayer from the minaret. The man who enters the minaret and calls them to prayer is called a muezzin. This does not happen here in the United Kingdom.
- Look at the model of a Mosque in the story sack-can you see the minaret?

A Muslim Mosque

Lets take a closer look at this Mosque.



It's a very grand place. It has a rounded roof.

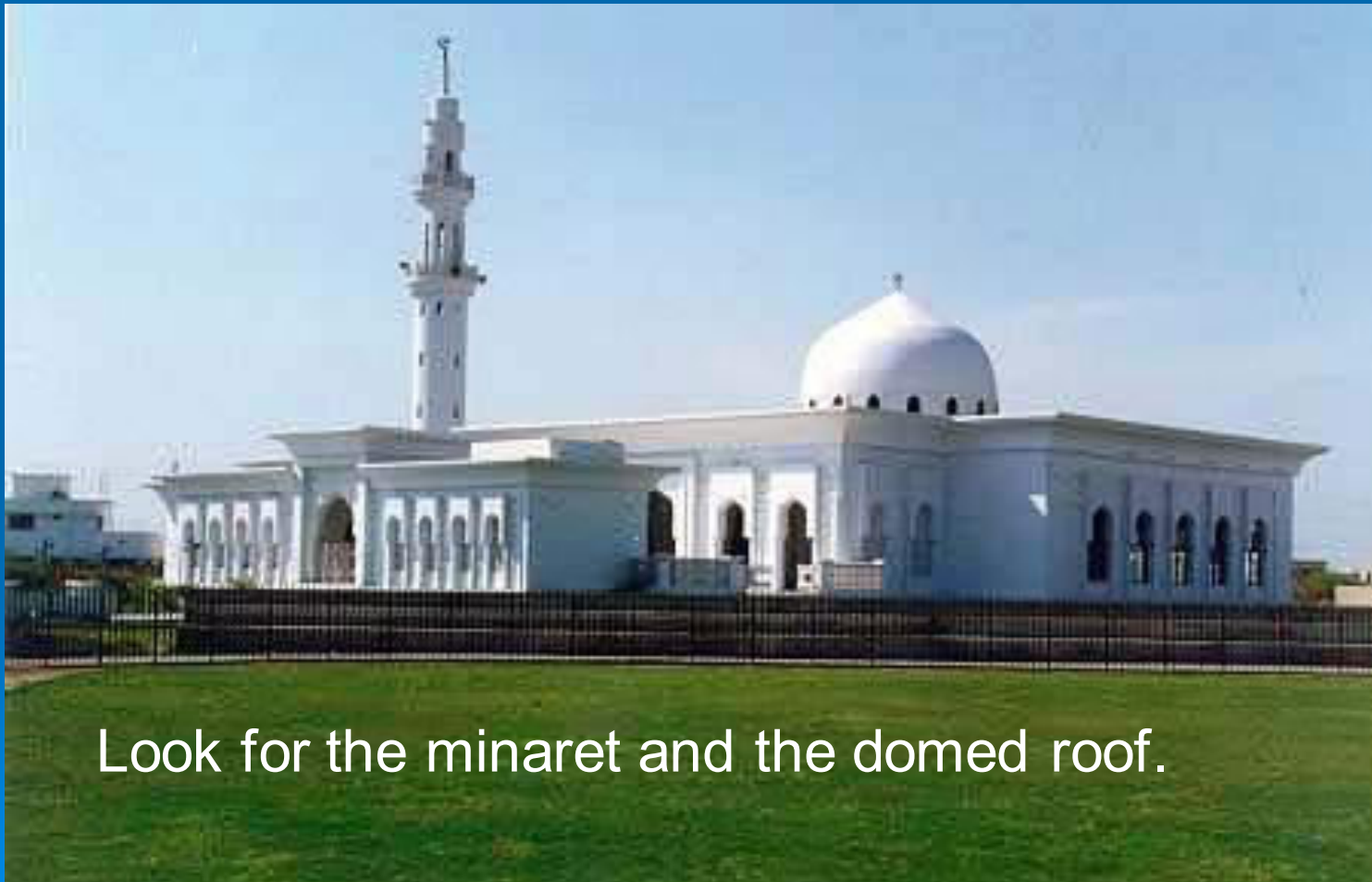
What do we notice?

It is extremely large.

Can anyone tell me anything else that's interesting about the Mosque?

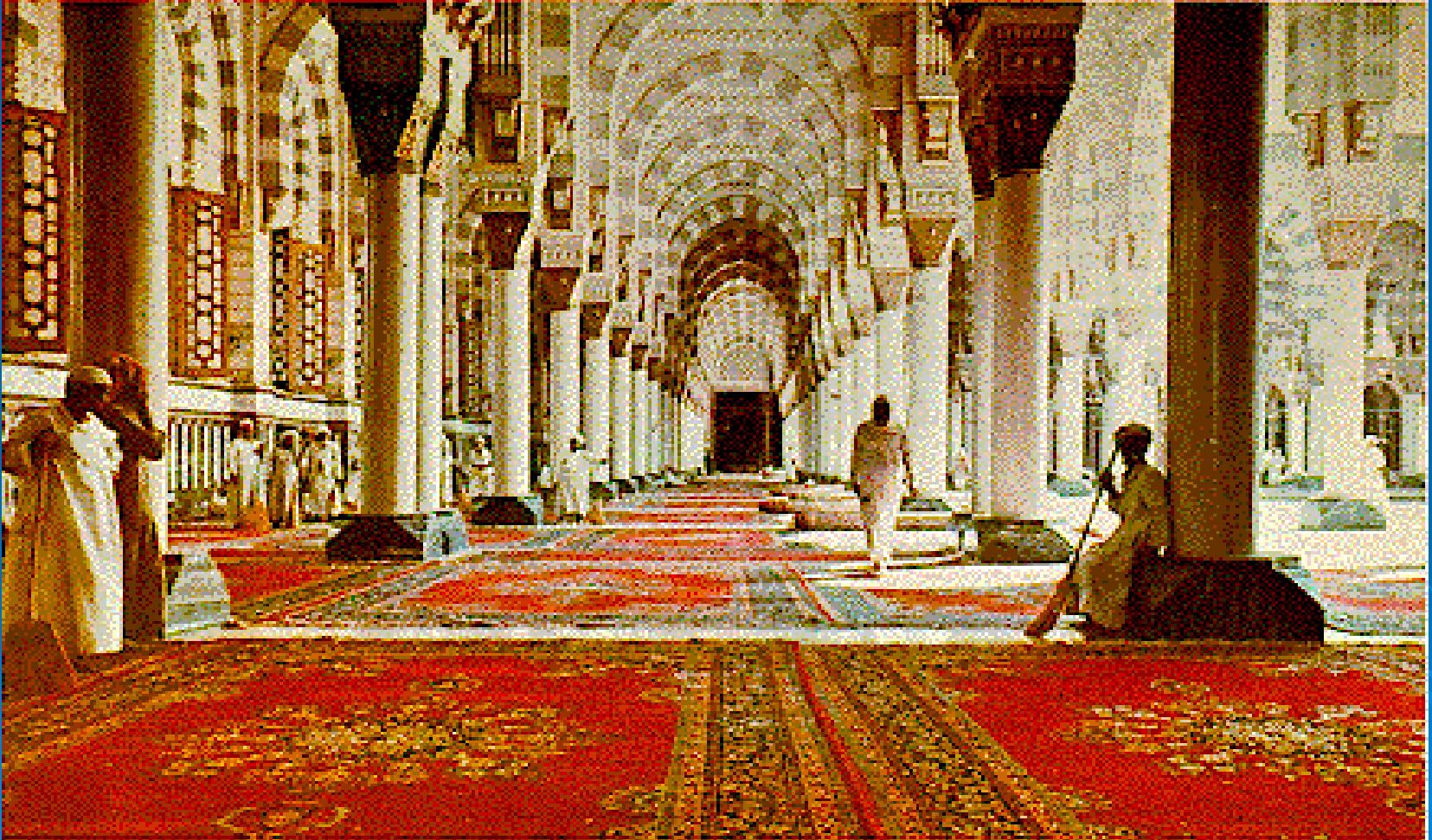
Much of it is made out of gold.

A Mosque in Pakistan



Look for the minaret and the domed roof.

Inside a Mosque



- There is no furniture
- Decorated in Arabic text.
- Never any pictures
- May have a large single dome on the roof or one or more smaller ones





- The floor is carpeted and the pattern is designed to provide individual prayer mats for each worshipper. Prayer mats are also put on the walls for decoration.
- Look at the prayer mat in the story sack.

Muslims prayers involve standing, bowing and kneeling

- The niche in the wall is known as the Mihrab. It marks the direction of Mecca. Prayers are offered whilst facing in this direction.



The compass in the story sack will help you find the direction of Mecca.



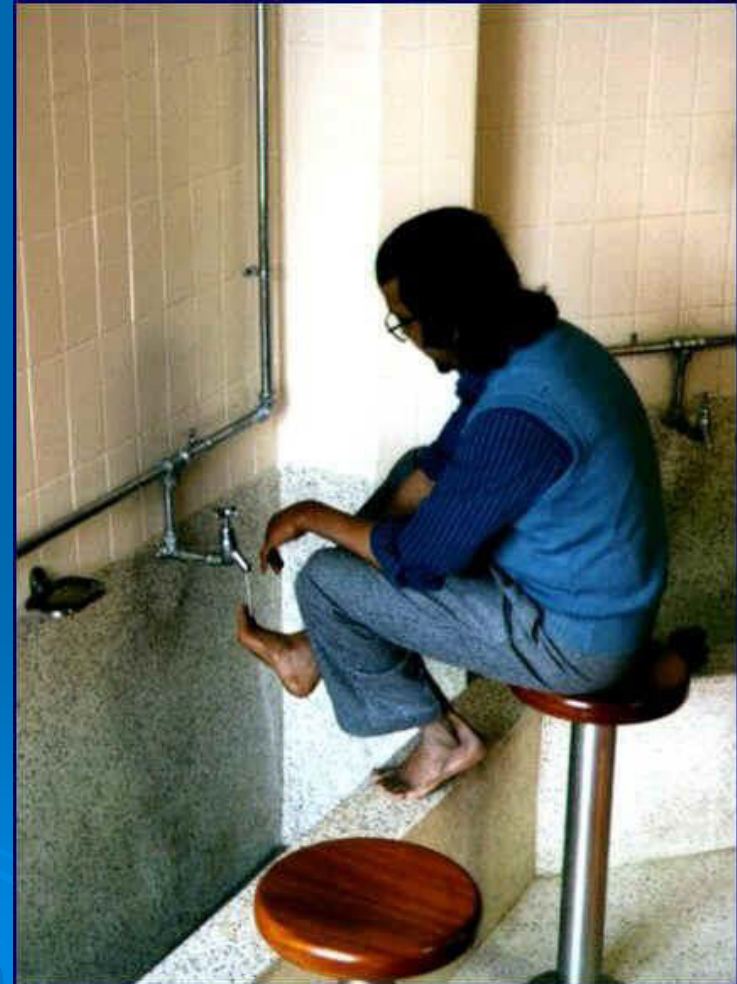
- Subha or tasbeih beads are hung around the mosque for worshippers. The strings of beads help worshippers think about Allah; each bead stands for one of the names of God.
- You will find these beads in the story sack.

➤ What happens in
a Mosque?

- Before going into the mosque, shoes are removed and placed on a special rack. Those arriving for prayer will go to the ablutions or wash room next.



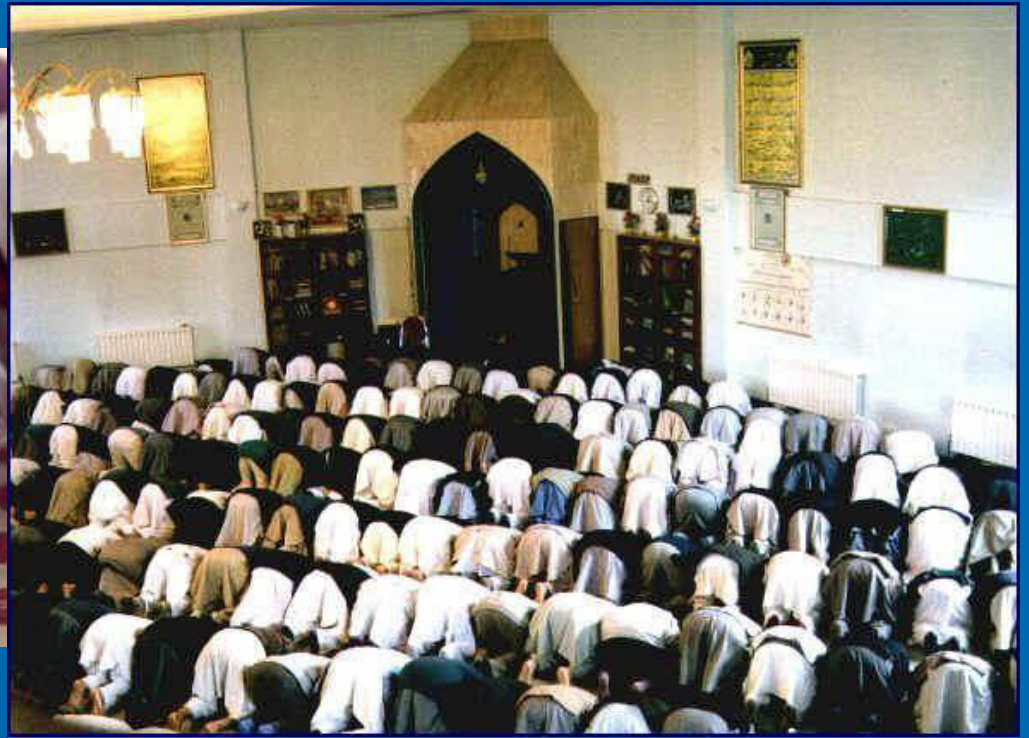
- This area is used for Wuzu, the ceremonial washing before prayer.



Spare head coverings are kept just inside the prayer hall, as it is customary to cover the head for prayer.



You can try on the head covers in the story sack. The girls wear a hijab, boys wear a kufi cap.

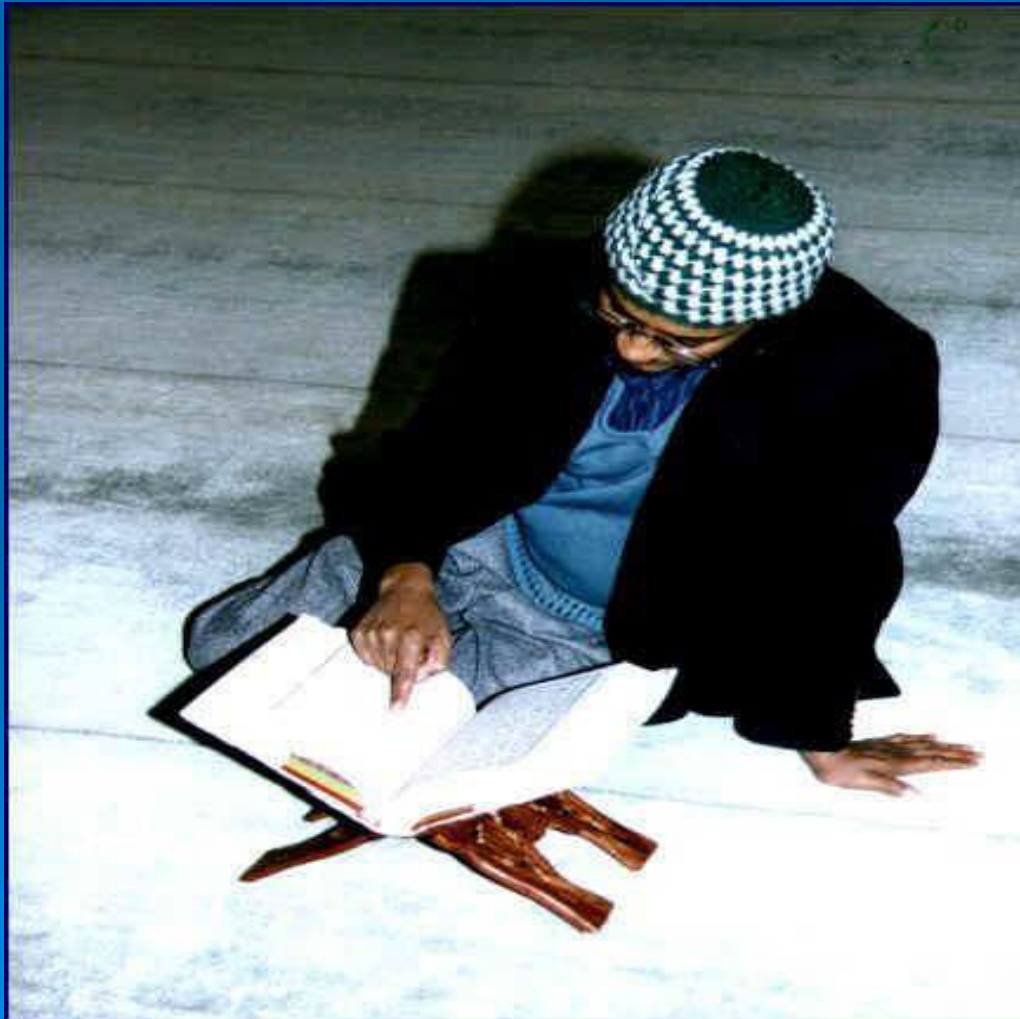


- Services are held every day at the Mosque. On Friday at noon, the most important of the weekly services is held.

Prayers are said facing Mecca



Muslims have a special book called the Qur'an. Muslims treat the Qur'an with great respect because they believe that the Qur'an is from Allah, and every word and every letter is sacred.



It is usually placed on a special stand to be read.

You can find The Qur'an and the special stand in the story sack.