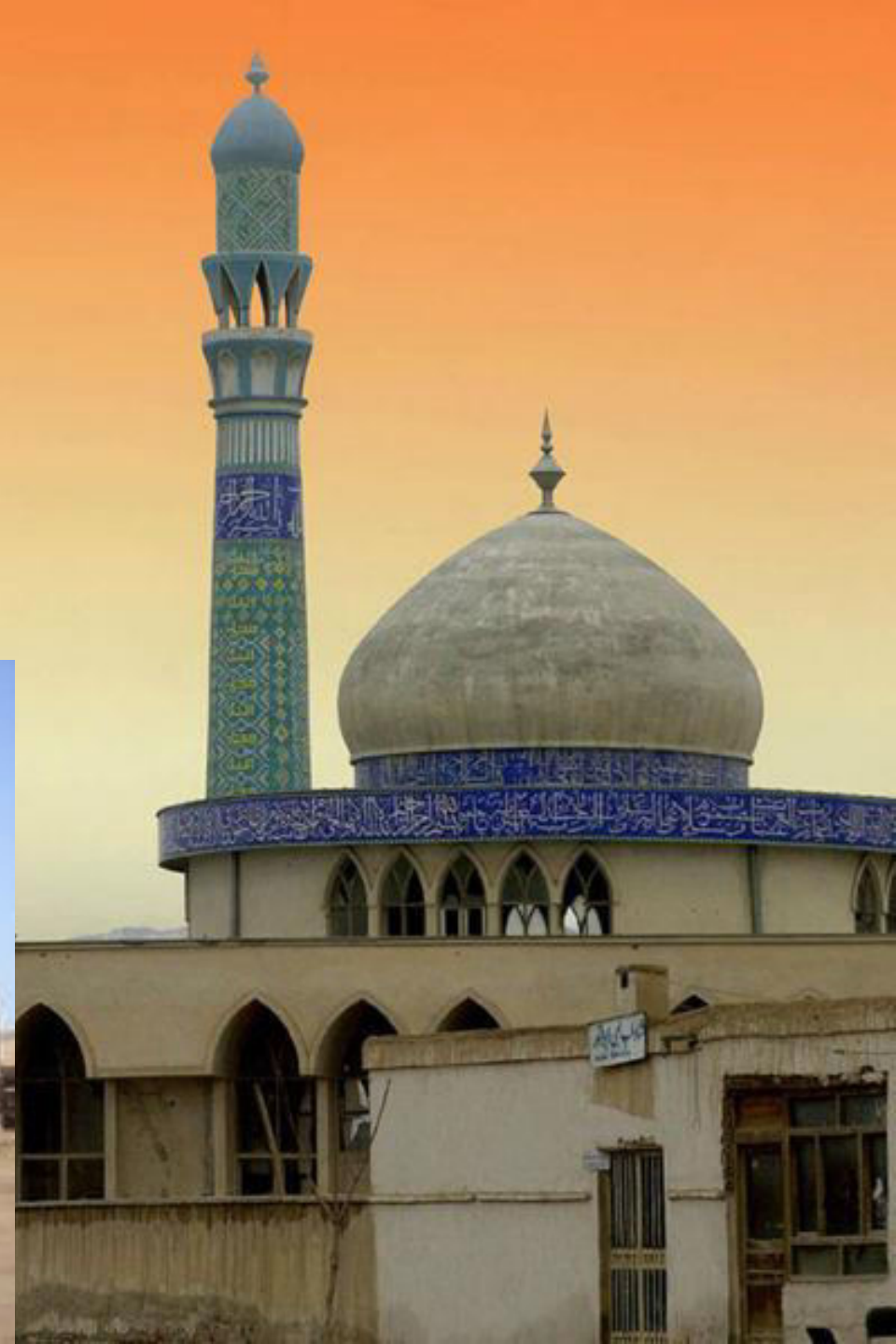


Islam

- People who are followers of the religion Islam are called Muslims.
- They believe there is one God, called Allah who created everything and is all powerful.
- Muslims go to worship in a building called a Mosque.





What is in a Mosque?

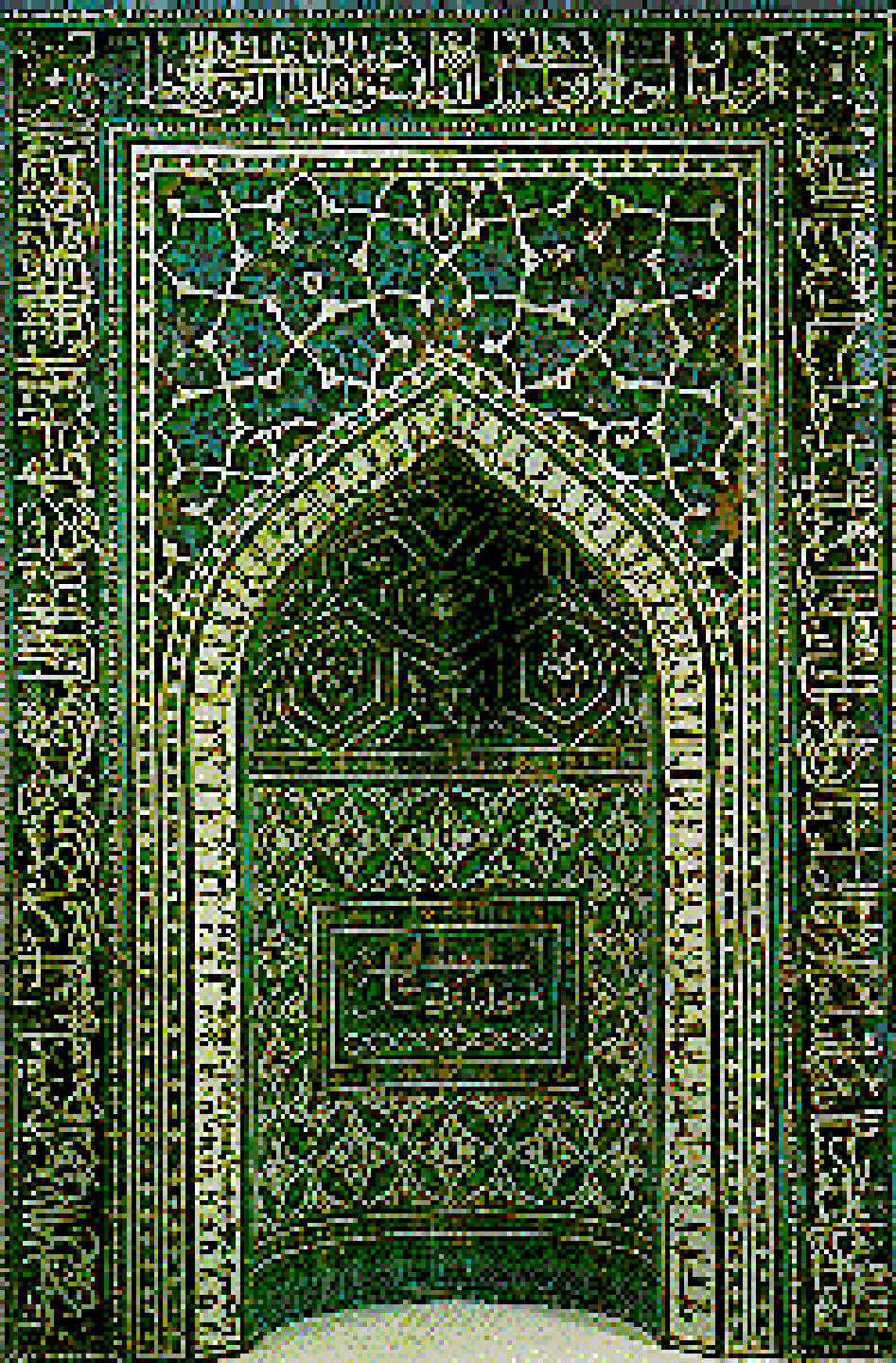
Qiblah wall



This is the wall in the mosque which faces Mecca. When praying, Muslims face Mecca as they believe it is the holiest city.

Mihrab

The mihrab is an alcove in the Qiblah wall. The Imam (leader) stands in the alcove to deliver prayers. The mihrab is normally very ornately decorated.



Minbar

Minbars are used on Fridays, the holy day. The person who is giving the special prayers (khatib) stands on one of the lower steps to deliver the prayers. Nobody uses the top step as this is reserved for the prophet.



Washing Area



Before going into the mosque, everyone must remove their shoes. They must then wash their hands, feet and mouths. There are separate washing areas for men and women.



Minaret

The call for prayer is called from the minaret by the imam (leader). This usually happens on Fridays although it can happen on other days as well.



Prayer mat

Usually when Muslims pray, they do so on a prayer mat. However, in a mosque the prayer hall is usually carpeted so they don't need to bring mats. In this mosque, the carpet is designed so that everybody knows where to sit and how much space to take up.

Plan of a Mosque

