

PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ص)

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Understand and be reminded that the last Prophet was the Holy prophet Muḥammad (saw)
- Know the story of Abraha and know that this was the same year the Holy Prophet was born
- Know the names of his parents and his foster mother
- Understand very briefly the kinds of practices at the time before Islam
- Understand that the Prophet was kind and generous to all and treated all people as humans with equal rights even before he received the first revelation
- Understand that Islam does not accept that a person be treated differently because of their skin colour, lineage, etc.
- Know that the Holy prophet (saw) was given the message of the Qur'ān when he was 40 years old
- Understand that in the beginning he had very few supporters and they suffered a lot in Mecca
- Know that the Prophet (saw) never forced anyone to believe in him but rather converted people through his actions and behaviour
- Understand that noble character can be expressed in many ways and that one of these ways is being patient
- Understand relevant examples of how they can practice patience
- Understand that not having patience can lead to many problems, one of which is anger.
- Know that the Prophet eventually left Mecca to go to Medina (if possible show this on a map with pictures) due to there being more people there who would support him
- Understand that this was the hijra and the beginning of the Islamic years.
- Know the current year in the Hijri Calender and do an activity to find the hijri year they were born. Be reminded that the Holy Prophet gave us a gift of Islam and we have to try to ensure that we do not allow it to be distorted
- Understand that it is our responsibility to speak up when something wrong is happening and assist in the doing of good

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 2

Lesson 1: The Childhood of the Prophet

Allah sent Prophet Muḥammad (saw) as a Messenger to all people throughout the world and throughout time and revealed through him the Holy Qur'an. Allah (SWT) tells us through the Holy Qur'an that Prophet Muḥammad (saw) is the last and the seal of all the prophets and that no prophet will come after him.

"He (Muhammad)... is the Messenger of Allah and the Last of the prophets..." Holy Qur'an (33:40)



Allah sent many prophets to guide and teach people their religion in each period of time. So Allah never left people without a messenger to guide them to their duties and the right path.

As Muslims we believe in all the messengers sent by Allah ending with Prophet Muḥammad (saw); the last Prophet. He brought us the religion of Islam; the final religion.

BIRTH OF THE HOLY PROPHET (SAW)

Prophet Muḥammad (saw) was born in Mecca in the 'Year of the Elephant' in which an amazing event happened. That year Abraha; the Christian governor of Abyssinia, a country close to Arabia, marched upon Mecca with a huge army of elephants. His intention was to destroy the Ka'bah and shift the centre of pilgrimage

to his city, where he had built a huge and beautiful church. But the very moment Abraha's large army was ready to attack; the Almighty Allah sent a swarm of flying creatures which blackened the sky. The creatures attacked the army of Abraha with burning stones, and within minutes destroyed both the elephants and the warriors.

*Teachers Note: Make this story central to your lesson and try to prolong it and deliver in the most exciting way possible.

Facts about Prophet Muḥammad

Name:	Muḥammad
Father:	Abdullah
Mother:	Āminah
Foster Mother:	Ḥalimah

THE LIFE OF THE HOLY PROPHET

The Holy Prophet Muḥammad (saw) was the son of 'Abdullāh and Āminah. His father, Abdullah, passed away a few days before his birth.

The Prophet was born in the city of Mecca in Arabia. His family had been the chiefs of the tribe of Quraysh.

It was usual among the families of Quraysh that they hand over their new-born children to country women so that they might be brought up in the open and healthy environment. According to this tradition, the mother of the Holy Prophet gave him into the care of a woman named Ḥalimah, who took him to her home outside the city to bring him up in a natural environment.

The Holy Prophet Muḥammad (saw) spent the first five years of his life with Ḥalimah and then she returned him to his mother, Āminah. His mother loved him very much and treated him very kindly. When he was about six years old, she went to Medina for a few days.

On her return journey, however she passed away. After this his grandfather 'Abdul Muṭṭalib took him into his care.

Abdul Muṭṭalib loved his now orphaned grandchild very much and was very kind to him. However, he too, passed away after two years.

Now the Holy Prophet began to live with his uncle Abu Ṭālib. Faṭimah, the wife of Abu Ṭālib loved Muḥammad (saw) as if he were her own son. Abu Ṭālib, too, was very good to him.

Prophet Muḥammad (saw) learnt, with the help of his uncle, knowledge and the experience of business. Prophet Muḥammad (saw) was trusted and liked by everyone who happened to come in touch with him even before he became a prophet. The people respected him very much and used to call him: 'The Truthful and Trustworthy'.

From his early childhood he never worshipped idols and never told a lie. He had excellent habits and a perfect character. People saw in him honesty and truthfulness and therefore respected him greatly.

THE TIME BEFORE ISLAM

More than 1400 years ago in Arabia the people were living very much in fear. They even feared their neighbours. They feared other tribes. They even feared their idols. This was the time before Islam when the Arabs were worshipping idols. In those days, Arab tribes fought with one another over very small matters and fought very long wars.

The people of Arabia were leading a very miserable life that they did not care even to ask permission before entering another's house and did not greet each other when they met. They considered themselves to be enemies of each other and spoke in a very harsh tone. In their lack of knowledge they would even bury their newly born daughters alive.



As Islam began to spread these cruel actions were stopped. The Holy Prophet patiently taught them the way they should behave and treat each other. He taught them love and peace. He taught them kindness and respect.

HOW THE PROPHET TAUGHT PEOPLE

As we have already learnt, the people the Prophet (saw) was sent to people who fought easily and did not think before acting. The Prophet (saw) slowly taught them to solve these problems. One day, a man came to the Prophet (saw) and asked for some advice. The Prophet gave him one simple piece of advice: "don't get angry!" The man had travelled a long way to talk to the Prophet, and wanted to hear more, so again he asked but the Prophet's reply again was "don't get angry!" The man asked for advice a third time and again the Prophet said: "don't get angry!"



The man then said his goodbyes and left the Prophet and went back to his hometown. When he arrived there, he saw that his tribe was getting ready to fight another tribe. An argument had started between the two tribes and they were both ready to go to war. Seeing all his friends angry and ready to fight, he also got angry and got himself ready for war straight away. However, as he was ready to begin fighting, he remembered the Prophet's words: "don't get angry...don't get angry...don't get angry!" He realized the strength of the Prophet's advice. He stopped himself, thought about things and realized that there was really no point in fighting a war over something that was not worth it.

He went out to his friends and told them he would not fight, and that they should not fight either. At first, they were shocked and called him a coward, but eventually he convinced them, and he stopped a war from happening and saved the lives and health of so many people.

This way the Prophet slowly introduced good manners and proper rules and laws into the lives of people. He did it in a beautiful, simple and strong way.

If we were lucky enough to have him around us today, he would look out for us and guide us in a kind and caring way, and help us to improve ourselves every day.

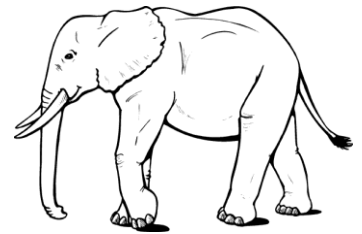
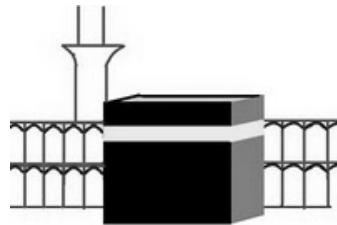
Activity

Colour the picture below.

THE YEAR OF



THE ELEPHANT...



Review Questions

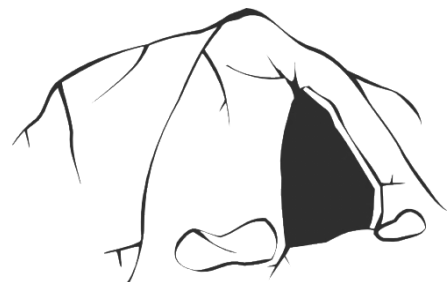
Q1. The Prophet's mother's name was:

- a) Āminah
- b) Ḥalimah
- c) Faṭimah

Q2. The Prophet was born in the year of the:

- a) Tiger
- b) Elephant
- c) Camel

Lesson 2: The First Revelation



The Holy Prophet Muḥammad (saw) spent most of his life in his native town, Mecca. He always treated the people kindly and lovingly and never harmed anyone.

But disgusted with the corruption all around him, Prophet Muḥammad often went to the Cave of Ḥirā, in a mountain a few kilometres from Mecca. He used to remain in the cave for long periods of time, praying to God and thinking about all His blessings.

When he reached the age of forty Angel Gabriel, appeared to him with the first verses of the Holy Qur'ān:

"Recite in the name of your Lord Who created. Created man from a clot. Recite and your Lord is most Generous. Who taught (to write) with the pen. Taught man what he knew not." (96: 1-5)

With these verses, Gabriel (as) told Muḥammad (saw) that Almighty Allah had chosen him to be His last Messenger to humankind.

Muḥammad's (saw) heart was filled with happiness, and he thanked Almighty Allah for giving him such a great blessing.

THE PROPHET'S CALL TO ISLAM

Once the Prophet received the order from Allah (SWT) to spread Islam, he

- Introduced Islam to his close immediate family, Khadijah, Imam 'Ali (as), Ja'far (the brother of Imam 'Ali) and his foster son Zayd. The first person to believe in the Prophet's message and become a Muslim was Imam 'Ali (as). Khadijah was the first woman to become a Muslim.
- Then he introduced Islam to his uncles and cousins in general. Some of them listened to him and agreed to support him, but others mocked him.
- Then introduced Islam to all of the Meccans, three years after that first revelation from Gabriel.

Class Activity

With the help of your teacher, draw a family tree of the Prophet's family. Who lived with the Prophet (saw) when he received the message? And who were the first Muslims?

THE PROPHET'S CHARACTER

The Prophet (saw) never forced anyone to believe in him. Rather, he attracted people to Islam through his actions and behaviour. He treated every one, young and old, with kindness, respect and love.

One old woman made a habit of throwing rubbish on Prophet Muḥammad whenever he passed from her house. Muḥammad (saw) had to pass that house daily on the way to the mosque. Even when the old woman threw rubbish on him, he would pass silently without showing any anger or annoyance. This was a regular, daily event.

One day when the Prophet was passing by, the woman was not there to throw the rubbish. He stopped and asked the neighbour about her well-being. The neighbour informed the Prophet that the woman was sick and in bed. The Prophet politely asked permission to visit the woman. When allowed, he entered the house, the woman thought that he had come there to take his revenge when she was unable to defend herself because of sickness. But the Prophet assured her that he had come to her, not to take any revenge, but to see her and to look after her needs, as it was the command of Allah that if anyone is sick, a Muslim should visit them and should help them with their needs.

The old woman was greatly moved by this kindness and love of the Prophet. By the example of greatness of Muḥammad (saw), she understood that he was truly the Prophet of God and Islam was the true religion. She accepted Islam at once.

THE PROPHET'S PATIENCE

Even though the Prophet's character was so amazing, there were some people whose hearts were so hard that they still did not believe in him. These disbelievers:

- Made fun of the Prophet and annoyed him whenever he tried to talk to people
- Called him crazy or a magician
- Sometimes tried to physically hurt the Prophet

Throughout all this, the Prophet (saw) was amazingly patient. He would put up with them without replying in an evil way, and when he got home, instead of asking Allah to punish them, he would say: 'O Allah, forgive my people, because they do not know'. The Prophet showed that he truly believed in this ayah from the Qur'an:

"Indeed Allah is with those who are patient."

If we are hurt by others, fall sick or go through any hardship we should remember to be patient just like the

Holy Prophet. If we remain patient God will reward and guide us.

Activity

Below are some examples of situations where we need to practice patience. Draw a picture of a time where you were feeling unhappy but practiced patience.

Losing our patience and becoming angry can lead to many bad things:

- It can destroy our happiness and our good actions. We will always regret what we did when we were angry and we would wish to take it back.
- It frightens and drives away our friends and dear ones.
- It forces the angels to record our bad actions and God will not be very happy with us.

Activity

Draw a picture of how not being patient can lead to problems.

Review Questions

Q1. The first person to become a Muslim was:

- Imam 'Ali (as)
- Khadijah
- Ja'far

Q2. The name of the Prophet's wife was:

- Khadijah
- Zaynab
- Kawthar

Lesson 3: The Prophet moves to Medina

As we mentioned in the previous lesson, when Prophet Muḥammad (saw) began calling people to Islam openly and the number of Muslims began to grow, Quraysh did anything to stop the Prophet and the believers. Many Muslims suffered and after many years of trying to guide the Meccans, the Prophet (saw) decided to leave Mecca for the safety of the Muslims and the message of Islam.

MIGRATION TO MEDINA

The people of Quraysh continued to torture the Prophet and the believers. The Prophet (saw) therefore decided to migrate from Mecca to Medina where there were many people had become Muslims and were willing to support the Prophet (saw).

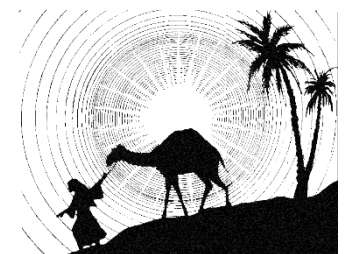
THE PROPHET'S ARRIVAL

The people of Medina were very excited and were waiting for his arrival. Suddenly someone from the top of a hill announced that the Prophet had arrived. On hearing this, the people became wild with extreme joy and recited "Allāhu Akbar!", "Allāhu Akbar!" - "God is Great!", "God is Great!"

The Prophet got down from the camel just outside the city and sat down under a date tree. People rushed forward to greet and welcome him to their city. He was loved by all and everyone was keen to salute him. After the welcome ceremony, the Prophet mounted his camel to enter the holy city. All around there were faces full of happiness.

The Prophet named the people of that city as Anṣār (supporters) and those who had migrated from Mecca as Muhajirīn (the migrants). These two groups of Muslims became very close

to one another and united to form one community.



Class Activity

The children of Medina got together and in loud voices sang to welcome the Prophet (saw). Recite the following poem as a class.



"ṬALA-'AL BADRU 'ALAINĀ
MIN THANĪYĀTIL WADA'
WAJABA-SHUKRU 'ALAINA
MA DA'A LILAHĪ DA'I"

"The full moon is shining on us from the area of gardens. We must offer thanks (to Allah) so long as anyone prays before Allah."

"AYUHAL MAB-'UTHU FĪNA
JE'TA BIL AMRIL MUTA
JE'TA SHAR-RAFTAL MADĪNA
MARḤABAN YA KHAIRA DA'I"

"O' the one sent to us, you have come with commands which we shall obey. You came and graced Medina; we salute and welcome you, 'O' the best caller (towards Allah)."

Teacher's Note: teachers are encouraged to bring in a CD of this Nashīd and allow the children to listen to it then recite it.

A STORY ABOUT AN IDOL

It was hardly three years since the people of Medina had accepted Islam and had started to worship Allah. The young boys in the city were given a job to remove the

worship of idols. Wherever they saw an idol, they destroyed it and set fire to it.

One day, the youths came to know that Omar bin Janah, one of the people of Medina, had still preserved his idol and worshipped it. In order to show him the uselessness of worshipping idols made of wood, they removed it from his place and threw it down a pit. The chief, on finding the idol, brought it back, washed it and kept it in its original place. But the next day again it was removed and thrown into the pit.

The chief was very much upset about this. For the last time he brought home this idol and cleaned it. He then put his sword around its neck and said to the idol: "If anybody comes to you, take action and kill him with the sword."

The next day the idol went missing again. This time Omar bin Janah found it tied to a dead body of a dog. There was no effect of the sword which he had tied around the neck of the idol. This event made him lose faith in his man-made wooden idol. He then stopped worshipping idols altogether. On becoming a Muslim, he uttered a poem:

"My idol! If you were my god, you would not have reached this stage and I would not have seen you in the pit along with a dead dog. I have now put my faith in the Almighty Allah, from Whom come all blessings. It is He Who has freed me from the darkness of ignorance."

This is one of the examples of how the young Muslims of Medina helped the Prophet in putting an end to idol worship and spread the true message of Islam.

THE PROPHET'S GIFT

The Prophet (saw) was sent to teach us right from wrong, and to help us live in the best way possible. This is why he spent his entire life teaching people to do good and right things, and tried to stop them from doing evil things as much as he could.

ENJOINING GOOD AND FORBIDDING EVIL

Just like the Prophet, we Muslims also need to encourage others to do good and stop



them from doing bad things.

We should start with ourselves and try not to do anything wrong ourselves. Then, if we see that others are doing something wrong, we should try to tell them politely to change or stop that action.



Also, if we see they are doing something good, we should encourage them.

This is especially important if we see someone being hurt by others. For example, if a classmate at school is getting bullied by someone, we should not join in the bullying at all. In fact, we should defend that person and try to stop others from bullying them.

Class Activity

Students should split into three groups and act out the following situations. Teachers should encourage students to show how they would react in such situations, knowing that they must try to stop the wrong thing from happening:

- You see one of your friends is being teased by everyone else in the class and being called names. What would you do in this situation?
- Your friend has a habit of always lying. What would you say to your friend to help him or her?

Review Questions

Q1. The Prophet moved from Mecca to:

- a) Bahrain
- b) Medina
- c) Jeddah

Q2. The Prophet called the people of Medina who supported Islam the:

- a) Muhajirīn
- b) Anṣār
- c) Quraysh