



Lesson 4- Islamic art and Muslim faith



L.I. I can describe ways that mosques express Muslim ideas.

- Write down your thoughts about this question:
- **How do Muslims express their beliefs?**
- **How do other religions express their beliefs? (think about previous lessons)**



mosque

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- In the Islamic faith, Muslims (people who follow or practice Islam) do not show images of their god unlike the Christian faith. Their supreme and unique God, Allah has no shape or form (cannot be seen, heard is neither female or male)
- As Allah is at the heart of worship and aspirations for Muslims, Islamic art focuses on the spiritual representation of objects and beings, and not their physical qualities.



Dome of the Rock mosque in Jerusalem

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- Islamic artists try not to copy nature as it is, but attempt to show what it represents. This allows the artist and those who experience the art get closer to Allah.
- Beauty has always been and always will a quality of the divine.



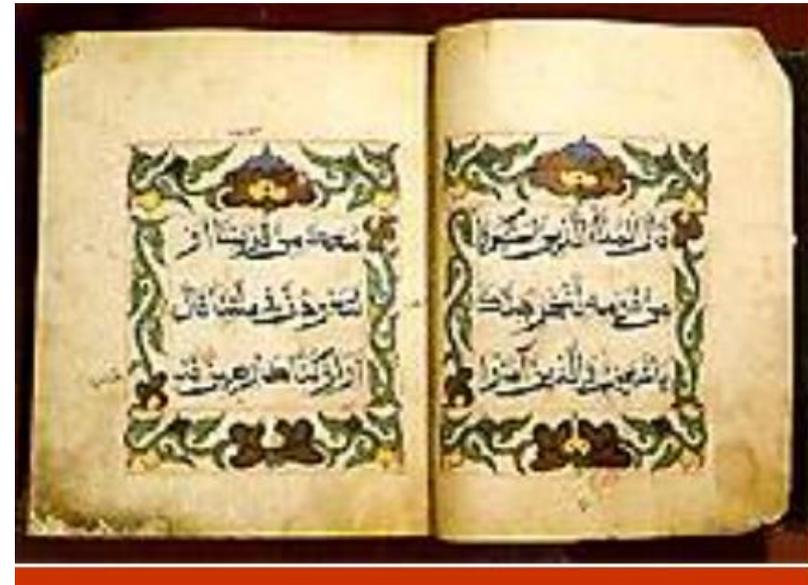
Mosque lamp, 14th century, Egypt or Syria, blown glass, enamel, gilding, 31.8 x 23.2 cm (Metropolitan Museum of Art)

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Islamic art

Calligraphy

- Calligraphy (handwritten lettering or decorative handwriting) is a major art-form
- The writing is seen as a high status in Islam
- It is a significant decoration for objects and buildings
- Books are a major art-form



Calligraphy, as in this Qur'an manuscript, is a major art form ©

Qur'an = religious text of Islam

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Islamic art

Geometry

- The covering of surfaces covered with geometric patterns is a common feature of Islamic art
- Geometric patterns are thought to reflect the language of the universe and help the believer to reflect on life and of creation
- As circles have no end they are infinite (forever) and they remind Muslims that Allah is infinite



Geometric decoration in the Grand Mosque, Kuwait ©

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Activity

Write 2 paragraphs:

- 1) Explain in full sentences why Muslims use art instead representations of figures in Islamic art (Select the appropriate information from previous pages)
- 2) Explain in full sentences how is art/symbolism different between Christianity (use lesson 1 and 2) and Islam. You need to include some of these words from the vocabulary bank

Success criteria:

- *Can describe how Muslims use art to represent their faith
- *Able to compare Christianity and Islam faith

Vocabulary bank:

- *Symbolism
- *Allah
- *Islamic art
- *Calligraphy
- *Geometry
- *Mosques
- *Qur'an
- *church
- *crucifix
- *trinity
- *stained glass windows
- *Omega
- *Alpha
- *hymns