

Activity 5: Design an eco-friendly mosque!

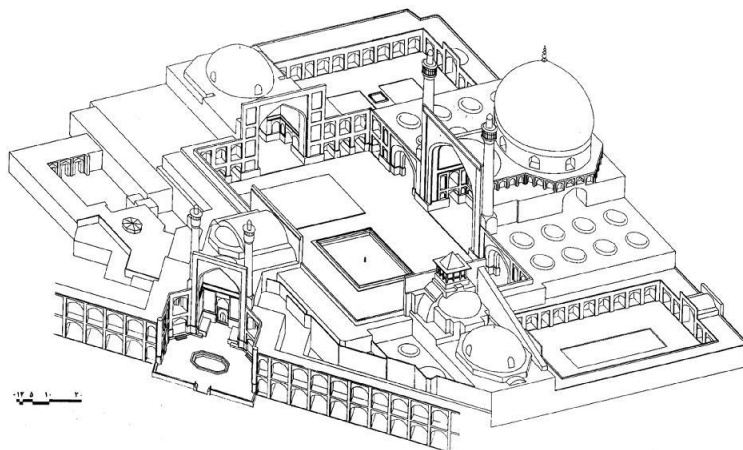
The Earth and everything on it has been given to us as an *amanat*. *Amanat* means trust. It is our responsibility to take care of the blessings (*amanaat*) we have been granted, and not to take advantage of them. This includes taking care of the environment.

Your task is to design both the inside and outside of a mosque. Be as creative as possible, while also considering how your design ideas will make the mosque environmentally friendly.

Below are just a few ideas of how your mosque can be eco-friendly:

- There could be solar panels on the domes and minarets to create renewable energy to replace the use of fossil fuels
- There could be a garden outside the mosque with bee-friendly plants to increase the bee population, as bees are becoming endangered!
- You could include a recycling area for all plastic bottles and paper to decrease the amount of waste going in landfills.
- There might be big glass walls which would help trap heat and keep the mosque warmer, so we don't need to use the heating as much – reducing the amount of gas and electricity used.
- Motion sensor lights, so that the lights don't stay on all night if someone forgets to switch them off!
- Prayer mats made out of reused fabrics – so we're recycling!

Tip before you begin: you could do some research at home on how to make your house more eco-friendly, and apply it to your mosque design.



Main features of a mosque



Mihrab: All mosques have a niche to indicate which direction we need to pray in

This is a mihrab – not all mosques have such elaborate mihrabs.

Minarets: Minarets are tall towers. Before the radios that we all have in our homes. The Muazzin would call out the adhan from the minarets so everyone in the surrounding area would know it was salah time.

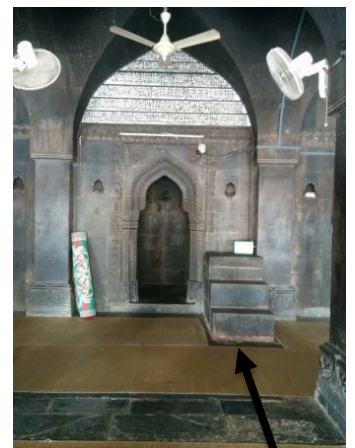


Dome

Minarets

Dome: Domes are built directly on top of the main prayer hall of most mosques. They are a symbol of the heavens and the sky. Some mosques have only one dome, others have many domes.

Minbar: A few steps which are used as a platform by the imam in a mosque when he delivers speeches. It is often placed beside the mihrab.



Minbar

Don't forget, all mosques have a big prayer hall where people gather to pray their salah, and also a wudhu area!

