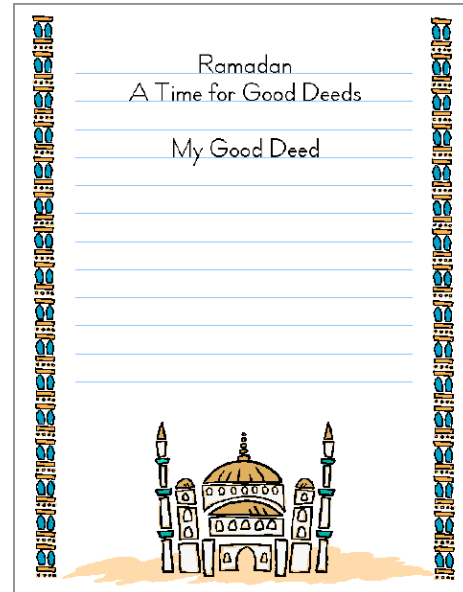


Ramadan

Goals

- To encourage understanding and respect for other cultures
- To compare our holidays with those of other nations
- To encourage habits of kindness and generosity



Overview:

Students learn about Ramadan and compare it to other holidays. They think of ways to help others, as Muslims do during this time, and make out Good Deed cards to record their acts of kindness.

Materials

- “Ramadan” template printed 4-per-page. Cut each page into four cards.
- Optional: Print or Internet resources on Ramadan and the Muslim culture. (See <http://www.holidays.net/ramadan/> for background information.)

Directions

1. Tell students that Ramadan, celebrated during the ninth month of the lunar year, is a holiday celebrated by more than a billion Muslim people around the world, including 8 million Muslims in North America. According to Muslims, Ramadan commemorates the time when their God Allah revealed the Koran to Muhammad. Ramadan is a time of fasting, contemplation, and charity. During this time, Muslims fast during the day, eat and visit with family and friends in the evening, and try to do kind deeds. (Include additional details as appropriate using print or electronic resources.) Ask students how this tradition is the same as or different from other holidays.
2. Ask students to think of ways they can be kind to others and share their ideas with the class. Then have students complete two or more cards with good deeds they plan to do. Tell them to look for even more ways to be kind throughout the day. When they do a good deed they didn't plan, have them fill in another card. Keep a stack of extra cards for students to use as needed. Tell students to keep their cards in a safe place or post them as a reminder of how they've helped others.

3. At the end of Ramadan, ask students how they felt about their good deeds. Tell them good deeds are a gift they can give anytime and anyplace. Encourage them to make good deeds a way of life.

Stationery Studio Extensions

- Use a variety of *Stationery Studio* borders to create good deed cards for other holidays and occasions.
- Have students use *Stationery Studio* to write thank you notes for kind deeds others have done for them.
- Make “Gotcha Being Good” cards for teachers to award students. If you want, sponsor a school-wide campaign. Encourage teachers to deposit “Gotcha Being Good” cards in the office. The principal can announce students caught in the act and invite students to the office for a pencil or other reward.
- Let students choose a *Stationery Studio* border and print several pages using the 2-per-page format. Have them staple the pages together to make a personal “Acts of Kindness” journal to record their good deeds.