

Aqiqah

Islam



Aim

To explore what happens at an Aqiqah.



Success Criteria

- I can tell you about what happens when a Muslim baby is born.
- I can describe what happens at an Aqiqah ceremony.
- I can talk about my own experiences of welcoming a new baby to the world.
- I can comment on the importance of giving within the Aqiqah ceremony.

A New Baby



With a partner, think about these questions:

Do you remember a time when a baby was born in your family or in a friend's family?



What things did you do to welcome the baby to the world and to celebrate with the parents?



Have you ever attended a ceremony to welcome a new baby?
What happened at this ceremony?

A New Baby

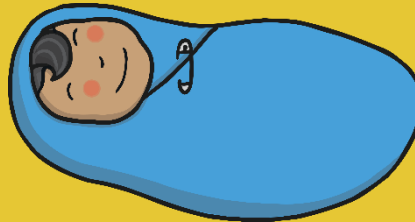


People often visit a new baby and sometimes give cards or presents to welcome the baby.

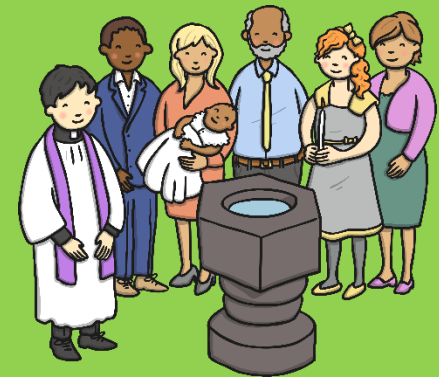


Ceremonies are sometimes held to welcome new babies.

Hindus have many ceremonies for new babies, including Namakarana, which is a naming ceremony.



Christians name and baptise babies in christening ceremonies and sometimes hold dedication ceremonies to welcome new babies.



In this lesson, we will be learning about a Muslim ceremony to welcome a new baby. This ceremony is called Aqiqah.

A Baby Is Born



When a baby is first born in a Muslim family, the first thing the baby hears is the call to prayer. This is whispered into the baby's right ear. Anyone can whisper this to the child but it is usually the baby's father.



The first taste experienced by the newborn baby is some sweet liquid (such as date juice) put into the mouth. This is so that the baby grows up to have a sweet nature.

Do you know what the first sounds you heard when you were born were?
Do you know what the first thing you tasted was?

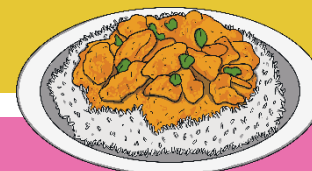


Aqiqah

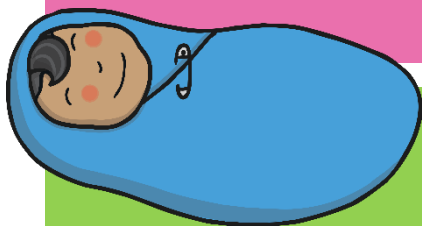


In the Islamic faith, Muslims welcome babies in a ceremony called the Aqiqah (pronounced Ak-kee-ka).

This is when the baby is introduced to family and friends. They celebrate and share a meal together. They join with loved ones to thank Allah (God) for giving them a child.



The Aqiqah is hosted by the parents of the new baby and may be held in their own home or in a hall or community centre.



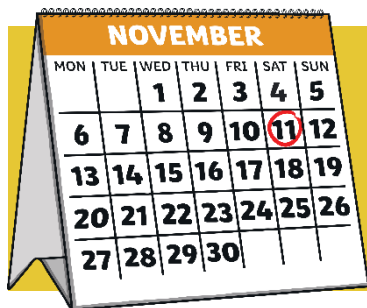
Why do you think people celebrate a new baby being born?



Aqiqah



The Aqiqah is usually held on the seventh day after the baby is born.



If this is not possible, it might be held on the 14th or the 21st day after the baby's birth.

Guests often bring along cards and gifts for the baby. The hall or home where the Aqiqah is held may be decorated with balloons and other decorations.



What gift would you bring a new baby?





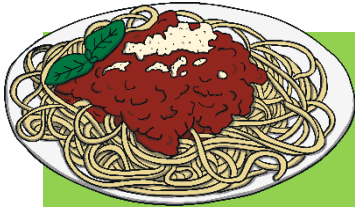
Aqiqah



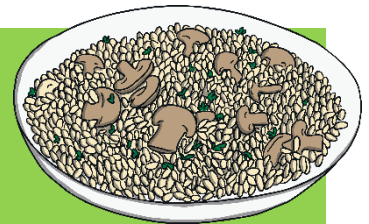
A meal is enjoyed by everyone at the celebration.

Traditionally, a family would sacrifice an animal, such as a sheep or goat, and give some of the meat to poor people.

In Britain today, Muslims usually order the meat from caterers or butchers for the party and give money to charities who feed poor people.



What would you eat at a celebration feast?

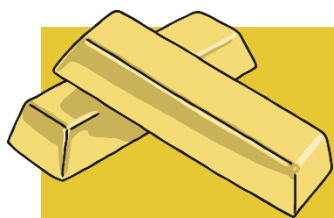




Aqiqah



An important part of the Aqiqah is when the baby's hair is cut or shaved off. Prayers are said for the baby.



The removed hair is weighed and this weight in gold or silver is given to charity.

It is at the moment when the hair is cut that the baby's name is announced but Aqiqah is not specifically a naming ceremony.

Why do you think they give the gold or silver to charity?



Aqiqah Values



An important part of the Aqiqah ceremony is when the baby's hair is cut and weighed. The weight of the baby's hair is used to work out a donation or gift to give to charity.

Giving to charity is an important part of the Muslim faith.

Can you work out what gift you would give?

Aqiqah Values

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Let's think about how giving to charity is involved in the Aqiqah ceremony.
A hair cutting has been taken at the Aqiqah ceremony and now you must consider the gift or donation to be given to charity.

Aqiqah Values

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Let's think about how giving to charity is involved in the Aqiqah ceremony.
A hair cutting has been taken at the Aqiqah ceremony and now you must consider the gift or donation to be given to charity.

Read the scales to work out the weight of the different cuttings of hair.

Now, work out how much the hair cutting would be worth in gold or silver.

Gold
1g = £10

Silver
1g = £2

Will you choose the value of silver or gold?

Choose one of the weights: _____

Now you have the value of your gift, what will you choose to give?
Circle one of the choices below:

A meal for someone who is hungry and does not have food.

A kennel for a stray dog without a home.

Medicine for children who do not have enough money to buy it.

Write at least two sentences to explain why you chose this gift.

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Words to Describe the Aqiqah



Imagine you have asked Muslim parents to give words or phrases to describe what their baby's Aqiqah was like. What might they say?

Write down your ideas on your whiteboard.

Maybe you suggested some of these words or phrases...

- special
- memorable
- lovely
- Great to have everyone together.
- a proud moment

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