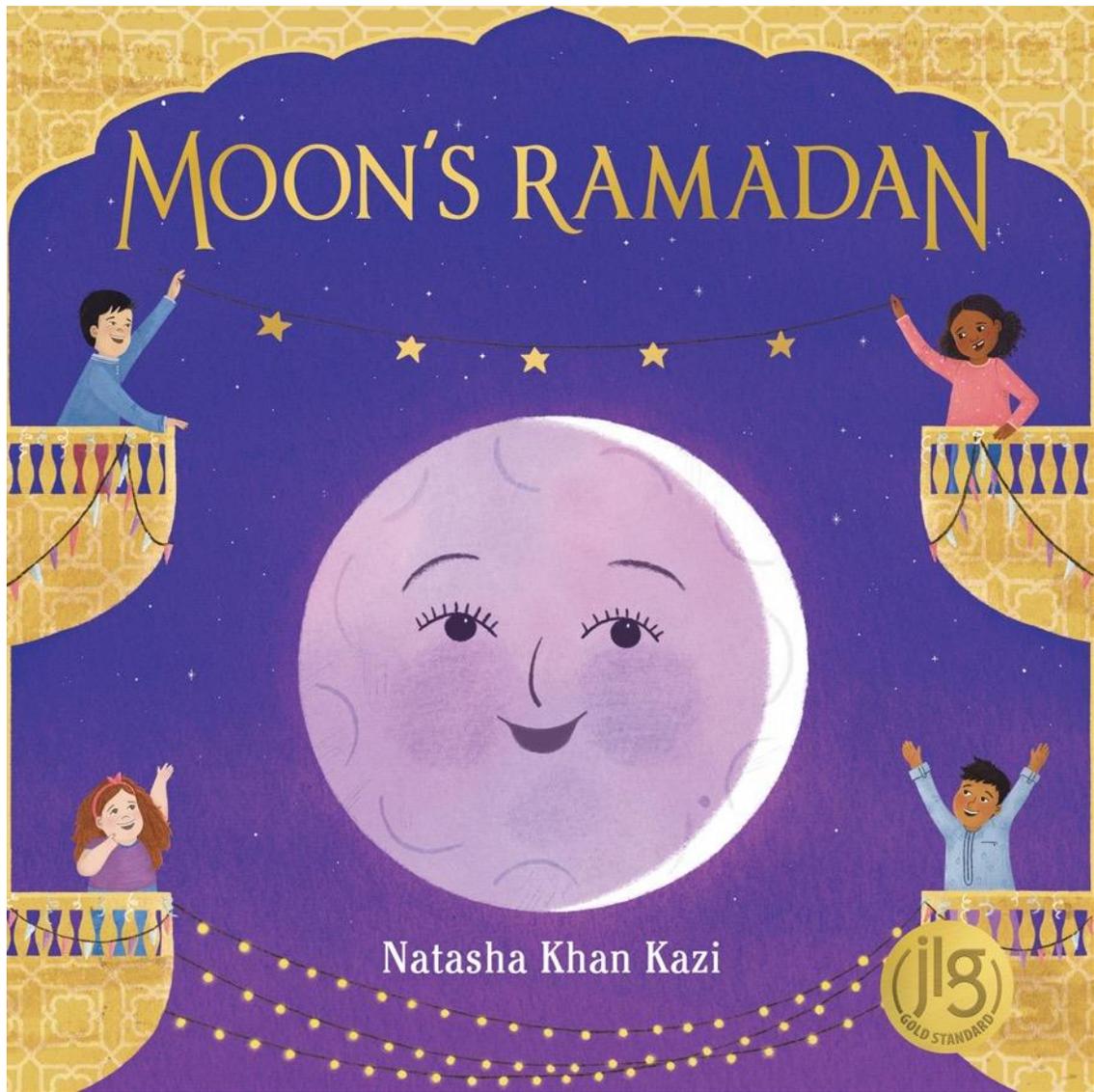


Moon's Ramadan

A teacher's guide created by Marcie Colleen
based upon the picture book
written and illustrated by Natasha Khan Kazi



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Natasha Khan Kazi, Author-Illustrator, *Moon's Ramadan*

Natasha Khan Kazi was born in Bangladesh, raised in Texas and Pennsylvania, and now lives in Southern California with her family of picture book readers. She has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Pittsburgh and over 14 years of experience in storytelling, social media, and online community building. Her creative work is rooted in empathy, diversity, and childhood joy. She is a 2022 Highlights Foundation Muslim storyteller fellow.

Combining her passion for education and art, she launched Islamimommy, a platform for Islamic education through arts and crafts. Natasha started putting in her ten thousand hours to be an artist as soon as she could hold a crayon. She spent evenings drawing, learning, painting, and drawing some more into adulthood. In her spare time, she loves thrift store treasure hunting and learning about new cultures.

In her debut picture book, *Moon's Ramadan* (Versify/HarperCollins), Moon marvels at new and old Ramadan traditions. Natasha has a second book to be released in 2024 with Versify/HarperCollins. Learn more at www.natashakhankazi.com.

Marcie Colleen Curriculum Writer

This guide was created by Marcie Colleen, a former teacher with a BA in English Education from Oswego State and a MA in Educational Theater from NYU. In addition to creating curriculum guides, Marcie can often be found writing books of her own at home in San Diego, California. Visit her at www.thisismarciecolleen.com.



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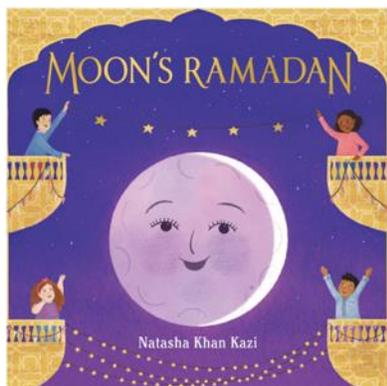
How to Use This Guide

This classroom guide for *Moon's Ramadan* is designed for students in kindergarten through third grade. It is assumed that teachers will adapt each activity to fit the needs and abilities of their students.

It offers activities to help teachers integrate *Moon's Ramadan* into English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies curricula. Art and drama are used as teaching tools throughout the guide.

All activities were created in conjunction with relevant content standards in ELA, math, science, social studies, art, and drama.

Book Information



Moon's Ramadan

Age Range: 4 – 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool – 3

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With radiant and welcoming art, this debut picture book and modern holiday classic captures the magic and meaning of one of the world's most joyful and important celebrations.

It's Ramadan, the month of peace, and Moon watches over Ramadan traditions with excitement and longing in this sweetly illustrated debut.

In Egypt, India, Argentina, and United Arab Emirates, in Somalia, New Zealand, and Indonesia, in Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States, children and their families do good deeds in honor of those who have less.

Cleverly blending glimpses of different countries' celebrations with the corresponding phases of the moon, *Moon's Ramadan* makes Ramadan, one of the world's most widely celebrated traditions, accessible and exciting for all readers. Includes robust and easy-to-understand back matter.

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English Language Arts

Reading Comprehension

Before reading *Moon's Ramadan*,

Look closely at the Front Cover ~

- Describe what you see.
- Imagine you are one of the children in the illustration. What are they doing? How does their pose make you feel?
- Can you guess what the story might be about? What are some clues that help you predict what the story could be about?

The Endpapers ~

- Describe what you see.
 - How might these images fit into the story?

Now read or listen to the book.

Help students summarize in their own words what the book was about.

- When the story opens, how does Moon feel? Why does Moon feel this way?
- Ramadan is a month focused on what?
- How do people prepare their homes for Ramadan?
- A drummer tells people it's time for Suhoor. What is Suhoor? Why is this early morning meal served before the sun rises?
- What does it mean to fast?
 - What did you eat this morning for breakfast?
 - Examine the word "breakfast."
 - What two words make up the word "breakfast?"
 - Taking what you've learned about what it means to fast, where do you think the word "breakfast" came from?
 - What do you think it means to "break" your "fast."
 - How is it similar, and how is it different? According to the text, what is important about the ritual of fasting during Ramadan?
- As days go on, Moon grows fuller. According to the text, why?
- After sunset, families gather for Iftar. What is Iftar?

- Describe in your own words some of the acts of charity and generosity that people engage in during Ramadan.
- What happens when the moon is full?
- Explain what is meant by "smiles mirror Moon's crescent."
- What signals the end of Ramadan?
- What is Eid?
- How do you think the world is different after the month of Ramadan?

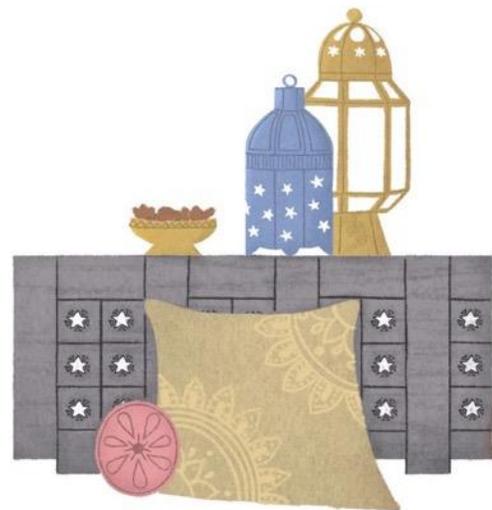
Let's talk about who made *Moon's Ramadan*.

- Who is the author?
- What does an author do?
- Who is the illustrator?
- What does an illustrator do?
- What does it mean if the author and illustrator are the same person?

Look closely at the illustrations. Can you find the golden spider? It appears throughout the book.

Can you also find:

- Fawanees (Ramadan lanterns)
- A feather duster
- A big drum
- Three people playing soccer
- Two people flying a kite
- Four glasses of water
- A yellow wagon
- A teddy bear
- A cat in a window
- Two pairs of scissors
- Two bottles of glue
- A microphone
- A pillow with a peacock feather design
- Binoculars
- A blue backpack
- An orange cat
- A noise maker
- Balloons



A Ramadan Timeline

Ramadan is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. Within the month of Ramadan there are several different observances.

Read through *Moon's Ramadan* taking note of the many ways that the month is observed. And then create a timeline of the month of Ramadan, using the text as a guide.

Writing Activities

Write the Scene

Choose one of the spreads in *Moon's Ramadan* and create the scene. For example, look closely at the family that lives above Cairo Jewels in the "Hello! Moon calls" spread? What are they doing? How do they feel? What do they say?

Write a line of dialogue for each one of the characters pictured. What happens next?

Be sure to include a beginning, middle, and end to your scene.

Ask children if the traditions in the book remind them of anything in their religion or culture. Some examples might include praying, attending religious services, gift-giving, special holiday foods, decorations, etc.

Wish You Were Here ~ Postcards from All Over

Ramadan is celebrated by Muslims all over the world.

Choose one of the places depicted in *Moon's Ramadan*.

If you were to travel there:

- How would you get there?
- What would you see?
- What would you hear?
- What would the weather be like?
- Where are some of the major spots to visit?
- Where would you want to visit? Why?

Create a large postcard of your trip. Be sure to illustrate one side and include a note to a best friend or family member on the other side. Be sure to be descriptive so that the person who gets the postcard can best imagine your trip.

Display the postcards on a bulletin board, along with a map indicating where everyone in the class visited.

Language Activities

Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is an imitation of a sound in words. In *Moon's Ramadan*, onomatopoeia is used to describe the sound of the drum that signals Suhoor and dropping coins into Sadaqah jars.

- Discuss why writers use onomatopoeia and perhaps why Natasha Khan Kazi chose to use onomatopoeia during these scenes.
- Look closely at the illustrations in *Moon's Ramadan*. What are some other sounds you might hear in each scene?
- As a class, create a soundscape for *Moon's Ramadan*. Create your onomatopoeia for the pages which do not include any already.
- Demonstrate how conductors use hand motions to set the tempo and noise level of an orchestra. Conduct the class in a musical symphony of the many sounds in *Moon's Ramadan*.

Spot the Alliteration

Natasha Khan Kazi uses lots of alliteration in her lyrical text. Alliteration is using the same letter or sound at the beginning of closely connected words.

For example: *Her sliver of silver signals the start of Ramadan, a month of peace.*

Or *Moon peeks through paper pennants and tin-plated fawanees.*

Alliteration can add to the fun read-aloud quality of a book. Look closely at the text for *Moon's Ramadan* and spot the alliteration. How many examples of alliteration can you find?

Then, describe a holiday that your family celebrates using alliteration.



Moon Grows Fuller ~ Point of View

Moon's Ramadan is told from Moon's point-of-view. Why do you think Natasha Khan Kazi chose to tell the story of Ramadan in this way?

Either as a class or individually, explore each scene in *Moon's Ramadan* from the point of view of one of the people observing Ramadan.

- What are they thinking and doing?
- How do they feel?
- What would they say to Moon?
- How do you think the Moon makes them feel?

Advanced classes will be able to write about *Moon's Ramadan* from people's points of view. However, classes can also create captions and thought bubbles for the people shown in the illustrations.

The Language of Ramadan

Moon's Ramadan contains many words associated with Ramadan, which may be new for students.

Read through the Ramadan Glossary at the back of the book. Then make two cards for each one of the words. One card would have the word, and the other would have the definition so that you have a matching game like Memory, in which you match the Ramadan word to the English definition.

Chaand Raat	Eid	Eidi envelopes	Eid Mubarak
Fasting	Fawanees	Henna	Iftar
Imam	Islam	Moon spotting	Mosque
Muslim	Quran	Ramadan decorations	Ramadan Drummer
Sadaqah jars	Suhoor	Taraweeh	Zakat

Additional Exploration:

- Come up with a way to remember what the word means. Using Total Physical Response and a partner, students can create an action that symbolizes the word and helps them remember it.

- Research and learn other common words and phrases in Arabic. How would you say the following:
 - Good morning.
 - Excuse me.
 - Please.
 - I'm sorry.
 - Nice to meet you.
 - Thank you.

New Vocabulary: Peace

Ramadan is a month of peace. Ramadan is observed through fasting, prayer, reflection, and community.

Lead students in a class discussion on peace in each student's life.

- What is peace?
 - Freedom from disturbance; tranquility; calm.
- When have you felt peace?
- What are some ways we foster peace in our day-to-day lives?
- Design a poster encouraging peace. Hang the poster in your classroom, or get permission to hang it in the school library, the office, the main hall, etc.

Math

A Geometric Moon Collage

Using construction paper, cut out shapes that represent the various moon phases.

Then use the shapes to create a picture. For example, maybe a crescent moon turns into a smile on a person, a half-moon is the top of a car, and a full moon is a sun in the sky.

Encourage adding lines with markers to enhance objects and add detail.

BONUS: Did you know that Islamic art is rooted in geometry, using many repeating shapes to create intricate patterns? Search the internet for images of Islamic tiles. What shapes and patterns do you see? What colors are used?

For a more advanced activity about Islamic art and geometry, visit:
<https://nurturystore.co.uk/islamic-geometric-art-lesson-for-children>

Henna Body Art

Henna, as mentioned in *Moon's Ramadan*, is part of the Eid celebration. Using Google, conduct image research to see examples of henna body art.

Look closely at the intricate designs and patterns in the images you find. How many different shapes and objects can you find?

Then, trace your hand and forearm on a piece of white paper with a pencil, and using colored pencils or markers, design your henna body art.

BONUS: order a pack of 12 natural herbal henna paste tubes. Children or parent volunteers can draw designs on each other's arms and hands.

Science

One Moon, Many Phases

One revolution of the Earth around the sun takes 365 days or a whole year. One revolution of the moon around the Earth takes 29.5 days or about one month.

Download your Lunar Month Log here:

<https://islamimommy.com/2022/12/21/ramadan-moon-phases-tracker/>

Explore the different names and phases of the moon.

- New moon (not visible)
- Waxing crescent (partly illuminated by direct sunlight and is increasing), first quarter (one half appears illuminated)
- Waxing gibbous (more than one-half, but not fully illuminated)
- Full moon
- Waning gibbous (more than one-half illuminated)
- Last quarter
- Waning crescent (partly illuminated by direct sunlight and is decreasing)

The moon cycle provides the structure of *Moon's Ramadan*.

Create a slideshow or print out images of the moon during each of its phases: first crescent, half full, full moon.

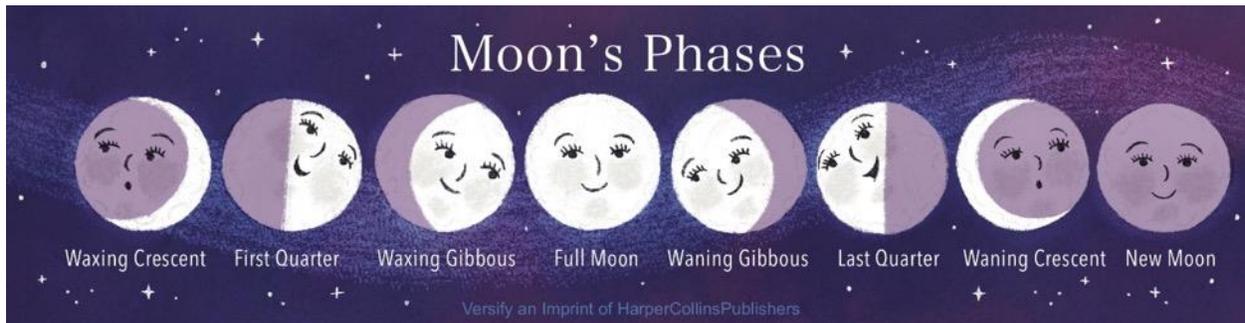
- How does the moon appear at the beginning of Ramadan?
- How does the moon change throughout Ramadan?

- Find each phase of the moon in *Moon's Ramadan*. What is the importance of moon to the structure of Ramadan?

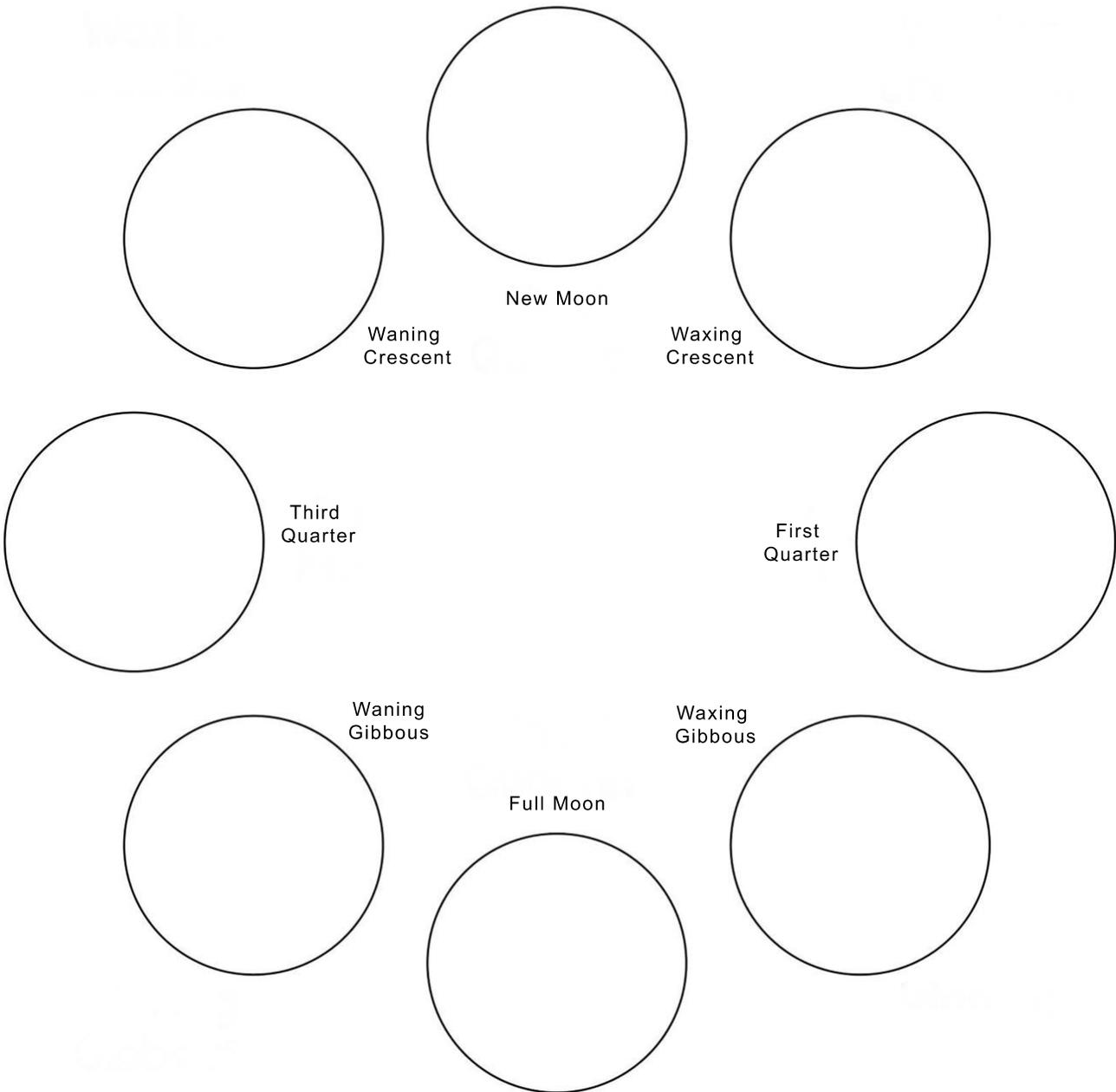
BONUS: Recreate the phases of the moon using sandwich cookies.

<https://islamimommy.com/2021/04/04/virtual-ramadan-lesson-and-moon-phases-activity/> You will need eight sandwich cookies and a plastic utensil to scrape the frosting.

Twist the cookie carefully to get as much frosting on one side. Then scrape the filling to create each phase of the moon. Arrange the phases of the moon in order with labels.



Phases of the Moon



Recreating the Phases of the Moon



Students can "act out" the phases of the moon using this activity.

You will need:

- A desk lamp
- A Styrofoam ball
- A pencil
- A dark room

Place the lamp in the middle of the room.

Have each student poke the pencil into their Styrofoam ball, like a lollipop.

The desk lamp will represent the sun, and the Styrofoam ball is the moon. The person holding the Styrofoam ball is the Earth.

Directions:

Step 1: New Moon: To begin, students should face the lamp and extend the sphere directly in front of them, raising the sphere enough so they can also see the lamp. This view simulates a new moon. As students look at their moon, they will see that the sunlight is shining on the far side, opposite their view of the moon. From Earth, the new moon is not seen.

Crescent Moon: Keeping their arms extended in front of their bodies, have students turn their bodies and extend their arms counterclockwise about 45 degrees. They should face their balls and observe what they now see. They should see the right-hand edge of the sphere illuminated as a crescent. The crescent starts out very thin and fattens up as the moon moves farther away from the sun (as the student begins to turn in a circle).

Step 2: First Quarter: Have students continue turning left, so their moon and body are now 90 degrees to the left of their original position. The right half of the moon should now be illuminated. This phase is called the first quarter.

Step 3: Full Moon: When students move their moon, so it is directly opposite the sun, as viewed from Earth, the half viewed from Earth is fully illuminated. (Make sure they hold their moon high enough, so the "sunlight" is not blocked by their head.)

Step 4: Third or Last Quarter: Keep students turning with arms extended so they are now three-quarters of the way around from their original position. This is the third, or last, quarter. They should observe that the opposite side from the first quarter moon is now illuminated.

Step 5: Return to New Moon: The continued counterclockwise movement brings a thinning crescent and, finally, a return to a new moon.

Social Studies

Friends from Around the World

Each spread in *Moon's Ramadan* depicts a different place where Ramadan is observed. Look closely at the illustrations. In each spread, what do you see that is similar to your own life? What are the differences?

Finding Commonalities/Uniqueness with our Friends

Finding what we have in common with other people is a good way to start a meaningful relationship.

Here is a way to learn what students have in common with other classmates while also celebrating what makes each of them unique.

Materials: A pen and two pieces of paper.

- This activity can be done in class or in pairs.
- On one sheet of paper, students will have ten minutes to come up with a list of things in common. Completely obvious answers such as "we both have hair" or "we are both in _____ class" are not allowed!
- After ten minutes, switch to the other paper. They now have ten minutes to come up with a list of things that are unique to only one person.
- Share both lists with the class when finished.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

- Pretend you are a talk show host and introduce a classmate to the rest of the class.
- Using the bio on the back-jacket flap of *Moon's Ramadan* as an example, have students write a paragraph about a member of their class.
- Design a mural using bulletin board paper as a tribute to the class's commonalities and uniqueness to display in the school hallways.

Our Holidays and Celebrations

Many of us observe holidays, yet we might have different ways of celebrating.

Have students describe their favorite holiday celebration in a paragraph and draw a picture to go along with it, if they choose.

Have students recite the months of the year and create a holiday calendar bulletin board to write various holidays and celebrations on.

Discuss *Moon's Ramadan* and encourage students to find ways that the celebrations are the same or different from their own families' celebrations.

Ramadan is a Time for Sharing

For many Muslims, it is tradition to make special treats to share them with family and friends and those who may be in need. This reinforces the importance of kindness, compassion, and the importance of giving to others.

What are some ways that you can help those less fortunate than you?

Brainstorm a list and choose one act of service to complete as a class in the spirit of Ramadan.

BONUS: What are some special treats that you and your family make to celebrate special occasions? If you have a kitchen, your class can cook simple celebration dishes together or perhaps share some foods made at home.

For information regarding foods to celebrate Ramadan, visit:

<https://islamimommy.com/2022/12/08/ramadan-activity-celebration-foods/>

Peace Inside and Outside Me

Ramadan is a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community as a way of creating peace, kindness, and love in the world and in ourselves.

The Project:

- Have each student lie down on a large piece of paper while someone traces their body with a pencil.
- Once the student has the silhouette of their body, write words that describe what makes them feel

- peace on the inside. Examples can include time with family or snuggling with a pet.
- Then, on the outside of the outline, write words that describe how they can bring peace to those around them and the world.
- Finished silhouettes can be displayed with the title "Peace Inside and Outside Me."

