**The Prophets of Islam**

**According to the Sunni Tradition**

**Why has God sent prophets?**

Islam teaches that God has sent prophets to humanity, in different times and places, to communicate His message. Since the beginning of time, God has sent His guidance through these chosen people. They were human beings who taught the people around them about faith in One Almighty God, and how to walk on the path of righteousness. Some prophets also revealed God's Word through books of revelation.

**What message have the prophets brought?**

Muslims believe that all prophets gave guidance and instruction to their people about how to properly worship God and live their lives. Since God is One, His message has been one and the same throughout time. In essence, all prophets taught the message of Islam - to find peace in your life through submission to the One Almighty Creator; to believe in God and to follow His guidance.

**What does the Qur'an say about the prophets?**

"The Messenger believes in what has been revealed to him from his Lord, as do the men of faith. Each one of them believes in God, His angels, His books, and His Messengers. They say: 'We make no distinction between one and another of His Messengers.' (Surah 2:136)

**What prophets are named in the Qur'an?**

There are 25 prophets mentioned by name in the Qur'an, although Muslims believe that there were many more in different times and places. Muhammad is known as the seal of the prophets and is regarded as the most important prophet, ending the line of prophets and giving a clear message of Allah’s intentions through the revelation of the Qur’an. Among the prophets that Muslims honour are:

Adam, Idris (Enoch), Nuh (Noah), [Hud](http://islam.about.com/od/prophets/p/hud.htm), [Saleh](http://islam.about.com/od/prophets/p/saleh.htm), [Ibrahim (Abraham)](http://islam.about.com/od/abraham/p/ibrahim.htm), Isma'il (Ishmael), Ishaq (Isaac), [Lut (Lot)](http://islam.about.com/od/history/p/deadsea.htm), Ya'qub (Jacob), Yousef (Joseph), Shu'aib, Ayyub (Job), Musa (Moses), Harun (Aaron), Dhu'l-kifl (Ezekiel), Dawud (David), Sulaiman (Solomon), Ilias (Elias), Al-Yasa (Elisha), Yunus (Jonah), Zakariyya (Zechariah), Yahya (John), ['Isa (Jesus)](http://islam.about.com/cs/jesus/f/jesus_quran.htm), [Muhammad](http://islam.about.com/od/muhammad/tp/ProphetMuhammadHub.htm).

*The Qur’an reads: Say ye: ‘We believe in Allah, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) Prophets from he Lord: we make no difference between one and another of them: and we bow to Allah (in Islam).* *Surah 1:136*

**How do Sunni Muslims honour the prophets?**

Muslims read about, learn from, and respect all of the prophets. Prophets are not divine because they have to be proper role models. Many Muslims name their children after them. In addition, when mentioning the name of any of God's prophets, a Muslim adds these words of blessing and respect: "upon him be peace" (*alayhi salaam* in Arabic). Muslims learn about Allah’s intentions (this is known as prophetic revelation) through the stories of the prophets recorded in Islamic writing; Qur’an, Sunnah and Hadiths,

Tasks:

1. What is a prophet?
2. What three things do Islamic Prophets teach people?
3. Give three pieces of information about the Qur’an and Prophets.
4. Why do you think Muslims seek to honour the prophets?
5. How do Sunni Muslims honour the prophets?

AIM - Collect a copy of the Qur’an and look up one account of the Prophets from this list: Write about it in your book.