

ISLAMIC NEW YEAR

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/12/islamic_new_year.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

The Islamic New Year, Al-Hijra, is celebrated by Muslims on the first day of the first month in the Islamic Calendar. This month is called Muharram. The exact day changes every year because the Islamic lunar year is 11 to 12 days shorter than the solar (Western) year. This means that in 2008, there were two Islamic New Years – one on January 9th and another on December 29th. It also means that new year's day for Muslims can be in the middle of winter or in the middle of summer. The exact date of the next Al-Hijra is not yet known. It is only predicted until there is a sighting of the new moon. Once that happens, governments in Islamic countries tell their citizens when the new year begins.

Al-Hijra is the time when the Islamic prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and his followers moved from Mecca to Medina, where they set up the first Islamic state. This happened in 622AD. Islamic years use the suffix AH (After Hijra) which means the year 2008AD is the Islamic year 1429AH. For Muslims, Al-Hijra is more of a time for personal reflection than parties and celebrations. They think about how to leave behind the bad things from the previous year and move ahead to live a better life in the following year. It is, therefore, a time when people make new year resolutions. A recent trend during Al-Hijra is for people to exchange gifts and cards, although this has not spread throughout the Muslim world.

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. celebrated by Muslims on the first | a. Islamic New Years |
| 2. the Islamic lunar year is | b. of winter |
| 3. ...in 2008, there were two | c. 11 to 12 days shorter |
| 4. in the middle | d. the new year begins |
| 5. The exact date of the next Al-Hijra | e. day of the first month |
| 6. Islamic countries tell their citizens when | f. is not yet known |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. ...his followers moved | a. for personal reflection |
| 2. they set up the first | b. the Muslim world |
| 3. Al-Hijra is more of a time | c. behind the bad things |
| 4. think about how to leave | d. Islamic state |
| 5. a time when people make | e. from Mecca to Medina |
| 6. spread throughout | f. new year resolutions |

LISTENING GAP FILL

The Islamic New Year, Al-Hijra, _____ Muslims on the first day of the first month in the Islamic Calendar. This month is called Muharram. The _____ every year because the Islamic lunar year is 11 to 12 days shorter than the solar (Western) year. _____ 2008, there were two Islamic New Years – one on January 9th and another on December 29th. It also means that new year's day for Muslims _____ of winter or in the middle of summer. The exact date of the next Al-Hijra is not yet known. It is only predicted _____ sighting of the new moon. Once that happens, governments in Islamic countries tell their citizens when the new year begins.

Al-Hijra _____ Islamic prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and his followers moved from Mecca to Medina, where they _____ Islamic state. This happened in 622AD. Islamic years _____ (After Hijra) which means the year 2008AD is the Islamic year 1429AH. For Muslims, Al-Hijra is _____ personal reflection than parties and celebrations. They think about how to leave behind the bad things from the previous year and _____ a better life in the following year. It is, therefore, a time when people make new year resolutions. A recent trend during Al-Hijra is for people to exchange gifts and cards, although _____ throughout the Muslim world.

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The Islamic New Year, Al-Hijra, is _____ by Muslims on the first day of the first month in the Islamic Calendar. This month is _____ Muharram. The exact day changes every year because the Islamic lunar year is 11 to 12 days _____ than the solar (Western) year. This means that in 2008, there were two Islamic New Years – one on January 9th and _____ on December 29th. It also means that new year's day for Muslims _____ be in the middle of winter or in the middle of summer. The _____ date of the next Al-Hijra is not _____ known. It is only predicted until there is a _____ of the new moon. Once that happens, governments in Islamic countries tell their citizens when the new year begins.

can
shorter
sighting
exact
another
celebrated
yet
called

Al-Hijra is the _____ when the Islamic prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and his followers _____ from Mecca to Medina, where they set up the first Islamic _____. This happened in 622AD. Islamic years use the suffix AH (After Hijra) which means the year 2008AD is the Islamic year 1429AH. For Muslims, Al-Hijra is _____ of a time for personal reflection than parties and celebrations. They think about how to _____ behind the bad things from the previous year and move _____ to live a better life in the following year. It is, therefore, a time when people make new year resolutions. A recent _____ during Al-Hijra is for people to exchange gifts and cards, although this has not _____ throughout the Muslim world.

moved
trend
leave
time
more
ahead
spread
state

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

The Islamic New Year, Al-Hijra, is *celebration / celebrated* by Muslims on the first day of the first *monthly / month* in the Islamic Calendar. This month is called Muharram. The *exact / exactly* day changes every year because the Islamic lunar year is 11 to 12 days shorter than the solar (Western) year. This *means / meaning* that in 2008, there were two Islamic New Years – one on January 9th and *another / other* on December 29th. It also means that new year's day for Muslims can be in the middle of winter *or / nor* in the middle of summer. The exact date of the next Al-Hijra is not yet known. It is only *prediction / predicted* until there is a *sighting / sightseeing* of the new moon. Once that happens, governments in Islamic countries tell their citizens when the new year begins.

Al-Hijra is the *timing / time* when the Islamic prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and his followers moved from Mecca to Medina, where they *set / setting* up the first Islamic state. This happened in 622AD. Islamic years *uses / use* the suffix AH (After Hijra) which means the year 2008AD is the Islamic year 1429AH. For Muslims, Al-Hijra is *more / most* of a time for personal *reflection / mirror* than parties and celebrations. They think about how to leave behind the bad things from the *previous / upcoming* year and move ahead to live a better life in the following year. It is, therefore, a time when people make new year resolutions. A recent *trendy / trend* during Al-Hijra is for people to exchange gifts and cards, although this has not *spread / sped* throughout the Muslim world.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

The Islamic New Year, Al-Hijra, is (1) _____ by Muslims on the first day of the first month in the Islamic Calendar. This month is (2) _____ Muharram. The exact day changes (3) _____ year because the Islamic lunar year is 11 to 12 days shorter than the solar (Western) year. This means that in 2008, there were two Islamic New Years – one on January 9th and another on December 29th. It also (4) _____ that new year's day for Muslims can be in the middle of winter or in the middle of summer. The (5) _____ date of the next Al-Hijra is not yet known. It is only predicted until there is a sighting of the new moon. Once that (6) _____, governments in Islamic countries tell their citizens when the new year begins.

Al-Hijra is the time when the Islamic prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and his (7) _____ moved from Mecca to Medina, where they set up the first Islamic state. This happened in 622AD. Islamic (8) _____ use the suffix AH (After Hijra) which means the year 2008AD is the Islamic year 1429AH. For Muslims, Al-Hijra is (9) _____ of a time for personal reflection than parties and celebrations. They think about how to leave (10) _____ the bad things from the previous year and move ahead to live a better life in the following year. It is, therefore, a time when people make new year resolutions. A (11) _____ trend during Al-Hijra is for people to exchange gifts and cards, although this has not (12) _____ throughout the Muslim world.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) celebration | (b) celebrating | (c) celebrated | (d) celebrates |
| 2. | (a) called | (b) calling | (c) caller | (d) calls |
| 3. | (a) all | (b) every | (c) whole | (d) few |
| 4. | (a) meaning | (b) means | (c) meanings | (d) mean |
| 5. | (a) exactly | (b) exactness | (c) exacted | (d) exact |
| 6. | (a) happening | (b) happen | (c) happened | (d) happens |
| 7. | (a) followed | (b) follow | (c) followers | (d) follows |
| 8. | (a) annual | (b) years | (c) yearly | (d) annually |
| 9. | (a) most | (b) much | (c) many | (d) more |
| 10. | (a) rear | (b) reverse | (c) behind | (d) beyond |
| 11. | (a) recent | (b) just | (c) happened | (d) now |
| 12. | (a) spread | (b) rolled | (c) soaked | (d) covered |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. Al-Hijra, is etcaebedlr by Muslims
2. The xacet day changes every
3. 11 to 12 days reothrs
4. in the ldemid of summer
5. a gsihtgin of the new moon
6. governments in Islamic countries tell their eiisntzc

Paragraph 2

7. his slelforwo moved from Mecca to Medina
8. Islamic years use the xfsuif AH (After Hijra)
9. a time for oprnaesl reflection
10. leave behind the bad things from the veosprui year
11. aceenghx gifts and cards
12. reasdp throughout the Muslim world

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () of the new moon. Once that happens, governments in Islamic countries tell their citizens when the new year begins.
- () is called Muharram. The exact day changes every year because the Islamic lunar year is 11 to 12 days shorter
- () AH (After Hijra) which means the year 2008AD is the Islamic year 1429AH. For Muslims, Al-Hijra is more
- () to Medina, where they set up the first Islamic state. This happened in 622AD. Islamic years use the suffix
- () behind the bad things from the previous year and move ahead to live a better life in the following
- (**1**) The Islamic New Year, Al-Hijra, is celebrated by Muslims on the first day of the first month in the Islamic Calendar. This month
- () than the solar (Western) year. This means that in 2008, there were two Islamic New Years – one on January 9th and
- () of a time for personal reflection than parties and celebrations. They think about how to leave
- () cards, although this has not spread throughout the Muslim world.
- () another on December 29th. It also means that new year's day for Muslims can be in the middle of winter or in the
- () during Al-Hijra is for people to exchange gifts and
- () Al-Hijra is the time when the Islamic prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and his followers moved from Mecca
- () middle of summer. The exact date of the next Al-Hijra is not yet known. It is only predicted until there is a sighting
- () year. It is, therefore, a time when people make new year resolutions. A recent trend

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. by Muslims on the first day of the first month celebrated

2. exact The year every changes day

3. there Years were in two 2008 Islamic , New

4. exact yet Al-Hijra next date known is of The not the

5. the when citizens their tell begins year new

6. moved Mecca Medina followers from to his

7. use AH Hijra years suffix After Islamic the ()

8. is more of a time for personal reflection Al-Hijra

9. things leave from behind the the previous bad year

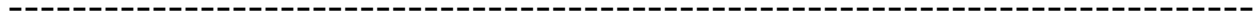
10. has this world Muslim the throughout spread not

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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THE ISLAMIC NEW YEAR SURVEY

Write five questions about Islamic New Year in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Islamic New Year. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Islamic New Year. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about Islamic New Year. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.