

Islamic Rites of Passage

Learning Objective:

To find out about Muslim funeral ceremonies.

Do
you know what a
funeral is?
Have you been to one?

Talk to your partner
about these
questions.



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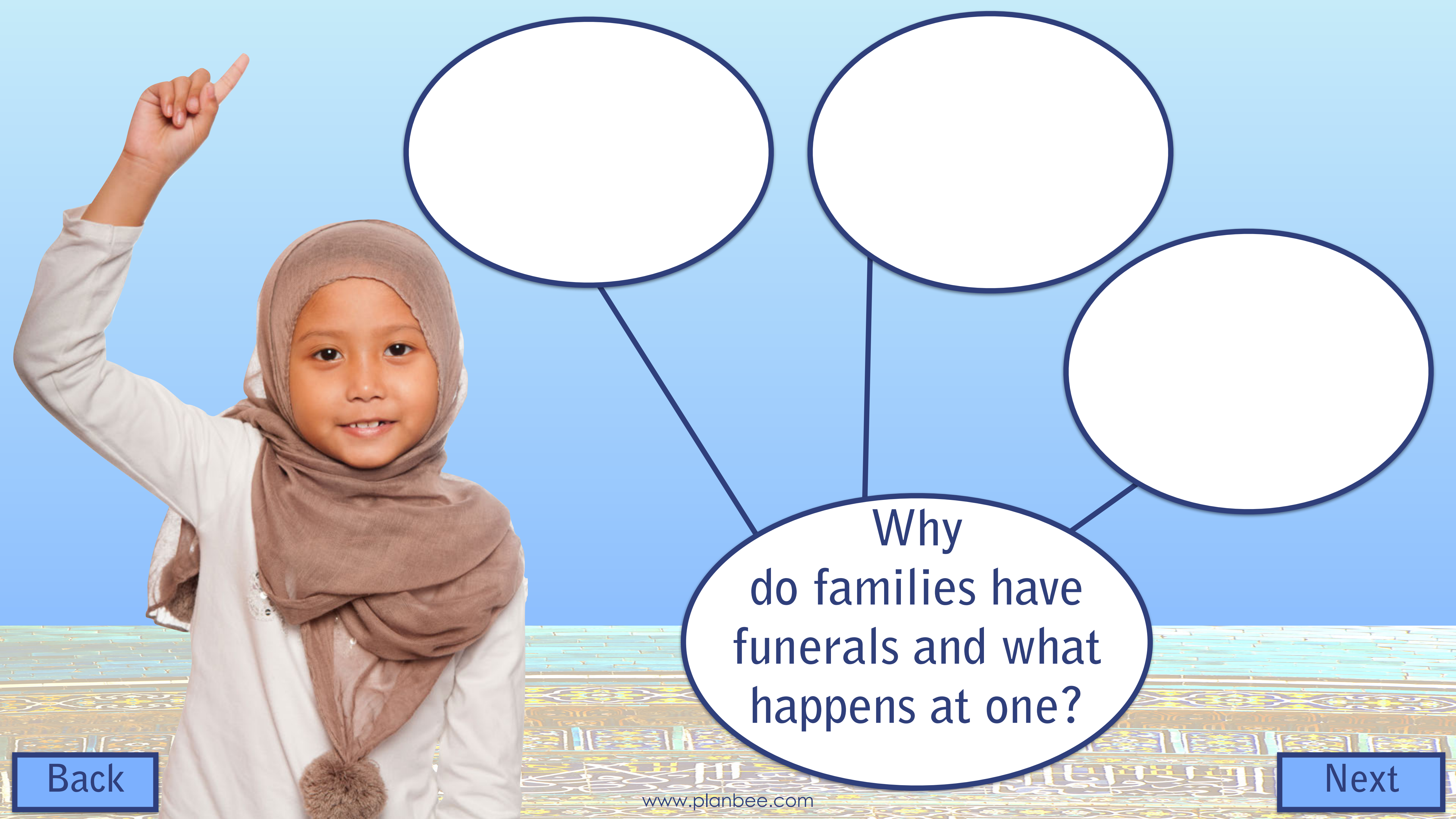
A funeral is a ceremony held shortly after a person's death. It usually involves a burial or cremation.

Funerals usually make family members and loved ones very sad.



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Why
do families have
funerals and what
happens at one?

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When a Muslim person dies the family prepares the body for the funeral and burial as soon as possible. The funeral should take place before sunset the following day.



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Before the funeral, Muslim family members wash the deceased's body using a traditional Islamic washing technique.



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Once the body has been washed it gets shrouded. This means it is wrapped.

The body is wrapped in white cloths and special ropes. It is important to bury the body soon after it has been wrapped.

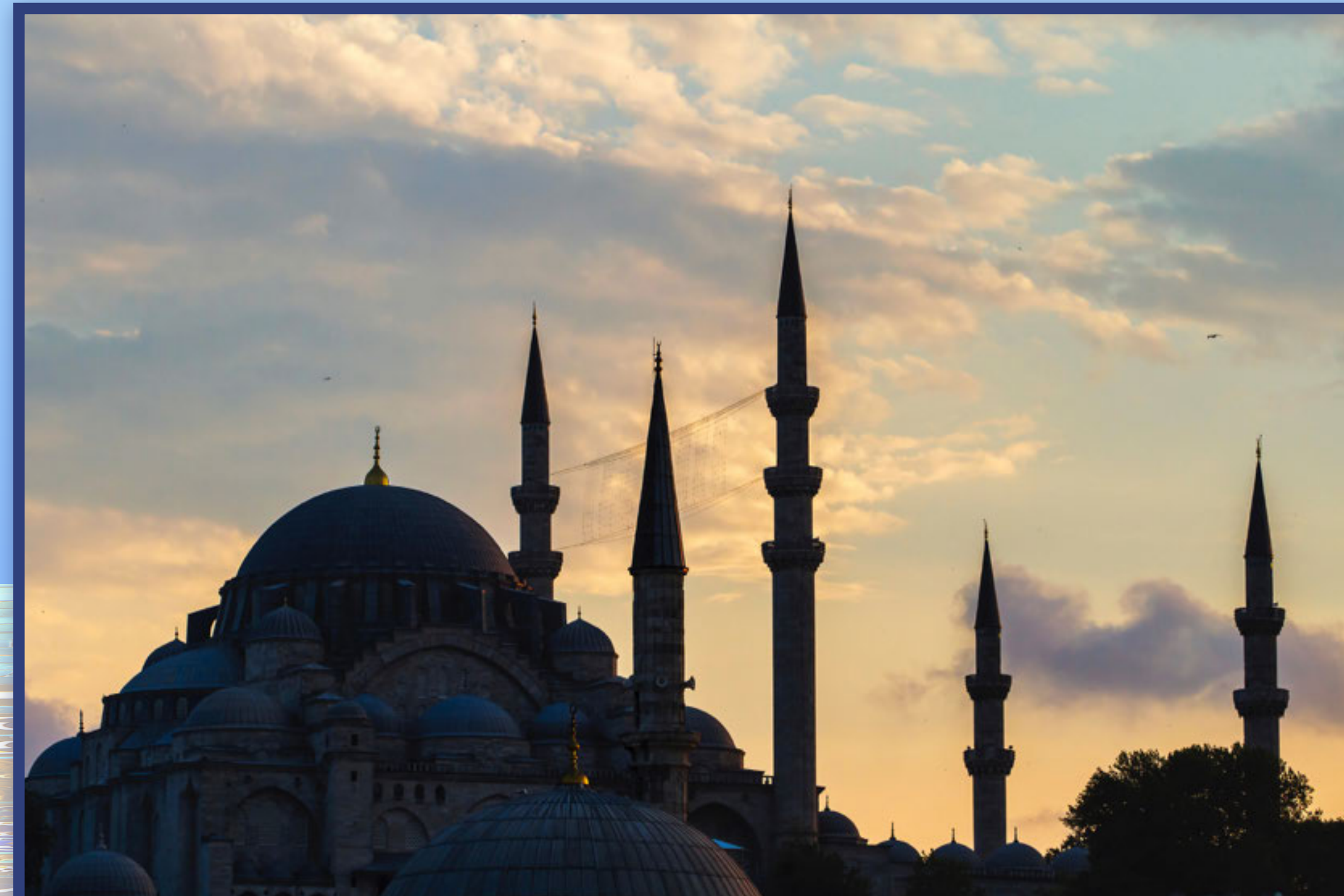


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The funeral ceremony happens after the body is shrouded. Family and friends go to a mosque and say a prayer before entering with the deceased. The prayer is called Salatul Janazah.

Once the prayer has been said the funeral begins.



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At the funeral family and friends must stand in three rows facing Mecca. Men in the front row, children in the second row and women in the third row.

Everyone recites the Fatihah, the prayer that asks for Allah's mercy and guidance.

Another four prayers are then recited.



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After the prayers, the deceased is buried.

The body is lowered into a deep grave and is placed on its right side, facing Mecca.

Families mark the grave with a simple gravestone. There are no flowers or candles.



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After the funeral friends and family help and care for the people who have lost a loved one. Most people bring food to the mourning family to enable them to focus on their loss and not everyday chores.



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Muslim people believe that life is a test.



They believe that a day will come where the dead will be spoken to by God (Allah). This is called "The Day of Judgement".



If Muslims live their "real" life honestly and carry out good deeds, they will be rewarded by God on "The Day of Judgement".

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