

Islamic Rites of Passage

Learning Objective:

To explore Muslim birth ceremonies and naming days.



What is your name?

What does it mean?

Do you like your name?

What would you like to be called?

Where did your name come from?

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How do parents decide what to name a baby?

In many religions when a baby is born a birth ceremony or naming ceremony takes place.

Parents take the time to decide on a great name for their child. Sometimes, there is a religious link however some names are chosen for different reasons.



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When a Muslim baby is born



When a new baby is born in a Muslim family the father whispers a prayer in the baby's right ear.
This prayer is called the Adhan.

"God is great. There is no God but Allah. Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.
Come to prayer."

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Why do you think
Muslim people feed their babies
sweet foods?
Did your parents tell you what
your first food was?



Another belief is that the baby's
first taste should be something
sweet so he or she is fed a
spoonful of honey or a juiced date.

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The naming ceremony

The naming ceremony lasts for seven days and is called Tasmiyah.

The ceremony allows the new baby to be accepted and protected by Allah.

Parents take requests for names from family members and the name has to be given to the baby by the seventh day.



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The seventh day

To thank Allah for the new baby a ceremony takes place, called Aqeeqah. Here the baby's hair is shaved and weighed. The weight of the hair is measured and the same amount in gold is given to charity. Two livestock from the family are sacrificed and a huge feast is cooked. Everyone in the community shares the food and celebrates.



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Muslim names

Muslims must choose a name for their baby that has a strong meaning.
This will bring blessings to that child throughout its life.



Which of these Muslim names are for girls and which are for boys?

Aaqil

Abbas

Ara

Aamaal

Aashif

Aamira

Aamil

Aalia

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Girls

Aamaal

Aalia

Aamira

Ara

Boys

Aaqil

Abbas

Aamil

Aashif

What might
these names
mean?

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Aamaal
Hopes and wishes

Aalia
Noble

Aamira
Royal

Aara
Adoring

Aaqil
Intelligent

Abbas
Description of a lion

Aamil
Work man

Aashif
Courageous



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