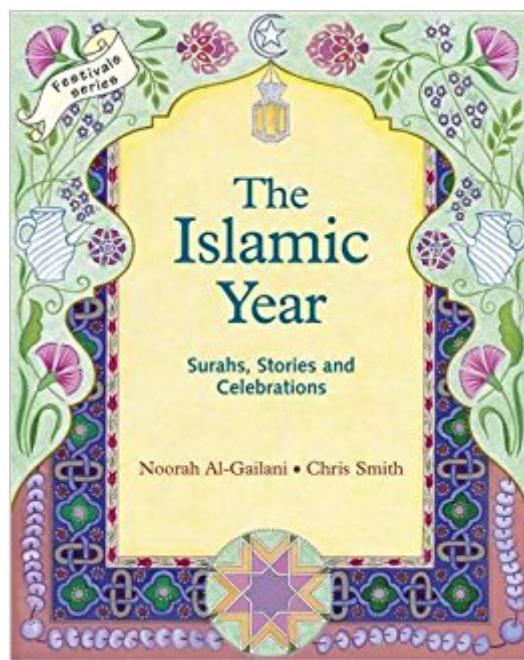


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# The Islamic Year: Suras, Stories, And Celebrations (Festivals)



## **Synopsis**

Celebrate the Islamic year with your children! You are invited to explore Muslim festivals with this inspiring treasury of stories, suras, songs, games, recipes, crafts and art activities. The Islamic Year describes the major festivals vividly, together with attractive projects that engage children creatively. A selection of folk tales illustrates the core values underlying Islamic culture with gentle humor and wisdom. This is a unique resource for educators and parents who want to share the spiritual wealth of Islam with children.

## **Book Information**

Series: Festivals

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## **Customer Reviews**

PW has complained for some time about the lack of informative books about Islamic holidays and celebrations, and this book begins to fill that void. Aimed at school-age children and their parents, it is loaded with activities, crafts, recipes and stories to help children understand the meaning behind holiday traditions. The authors discuss some variations in holiday celebrations by Muslims around the world; in Turkey, Sufi whirling dances are performed during the evenings of Ramadan, while in Bangladesh, the wealthy give clothes to the poor. The book is imaginatively structured around the life of the prophet Muhammad, with holidays arranged as they relate to the prophet's life and work: his birth, his ascension, etc. The New Year's holiday (hijrah) is explained by pairing it with Muhammad's migration from Mecca to Medina. Not just for Muslims, this book offers helpful and accessible information for non-Muslim educators and parents who are interested in interfaith understanding. The appendices include a glossary and a section of suggestions for teachers.

Organized so that the explanations of and activities for the festivals are linked to an appropriate point in Muhammad's life, the book is more holistic and unified than most volumes designed for non-Muslims. It was created specifically for adults who want to study Islam with children so that this often-misunderstood religion can be more completely and sympathetically known to non-adherents. The authors have collected their stories not only from the Middle Eastern nations, but also from Islamic traditions as far afield as Uzbekistan, Malaysia, and West Africa. The bibliography lists titles both in English and Arabic, but the sources for obtaining the craft materials are all in the U.K. The book has a sometimes-evangelical nature, but since the stories and information will be filtered through teachers and other adults, this should not pose a problem. This title stands out among the flurry of books published in the past few years, both for the quality of its activities and the inclusion of folktales that can be used within a study of Islam or as stand-alone stories for units on many different topics. Coop Renner, Fairmeadows Elementary, Duncanville, TX Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is a really great collection of activities, history, and folk tales. We are a Muslim family raising 2 elementary-age children in the states. We haven't done many of the activities yet but I've read through them and there is a lot of variety (crafts, food-tasting). The book is arranged according to events of the life of the Prophet Mohammad (SA), and I have often pulled this book off the shelf when we want to know more about a particular event in Islamic history. As a former teacher, I am sure this book would be very useful to those teaching Muslim children about their own religion, and also non-Muslim children about the Muslim faith -- no small task, but the authors have pulled it off impressively. My (and my children's) absolute favorite aspect of this book is the wonderful stories interspersed throughout the book. These are REAL stories, not the nauseatingly didactic "stories" published overseas that you might find for sale at your local masjid (not to imply that all children's books published in non-western countries are awful; we've just encountered a lot of them, and this book is not like those at all). These authors are truly good storytellers. I really hope they publish more. We have loved reading the stories and have probably read all of them multiple times. This book introduced my children & myself to the Juha (Nasruddin Hoja) stories, and also a hilarious story from 1001 Arabian Nights called "Abu Kasim's Boots", among many others. I highly recommend this book to all Muslim families with elementary-age kids, and also to anyone seeking to expose non-Muslim children to Islam. This book is truly a gem.

This is a great book, it's a little hard though for kids, even Me a grown adult could not complete some of the activities, but overall very good, a little pricey though

218 pages; Hawthorn Press, Festivals Series This is a lovely book which reliably and compellingly explains Islam to non-Muslim audiences. It is a practical guide full of engaging hands-on activities for children and youth. Chris Smith is a musician and storyteller. He has a passion for Arab folktales, myths and legends, gained from living in Palestine. Noorah Al-Gailani's family is from Iraq. She teaches Islam in Saturday schools and works as a curator in London. "...an excellent book in every way... No school, or public library, should be without at least one copy." (School Librarian)

To commemorate various Islamic 'holidays', this 218-page "THE ISLAMIC YEAR: Surahs, Stories and Celebrations" is a wonderful English-language hands on, hand-building products book for both adults and youths in making various cut-and-paste or other handicrafts for decorating dinner tables or other display nooks. The main author is Noorah Al-Gailani, she is a Muslim of Iraqi origin living in England, who has taught Islam to Muslim children in various settings. She teaches through "games, creative activities and stories", all of which are demonstrated in this large hardback. The author provides a very brief history of the development of Islam, along with explaining basic Islamic theology for youths. Some of the handicrafts that are demonstrated in this book for children to build include: drawing, cutting and folding a paper model of the Ka'bah; creating a ceiling "prophets air-mobile", making a paper mosque lantern; cooking 'religious' deserts; story tellings of the Islamic faith; how to make paper window-hangings to temporarily cover windows; making a misbahah/subhad rosary bead-chains; producing book covers; creating a ceiling "seven heavens" air-mobile; making a simple cloth prayer rug; making a Id pop-up card; making a Hajj Greetings Card, games, etc. Also, short stories from various Islamic countries are presented - especially the tender, heartwarming "Mullum the Warrior" story from West Africa where our Islamic hero is championed: "The battle lasted for hours, but finally Mullum pushed his son to the ground and slashed him across the chest" (p. 135). This Islamic book would probably be prohibited in Saudi Arabia, because it does show children how to make paper handicrafts depicting desert animals, and does explain the "Festival of Ashura and the Sunni/Shi'ah Schism" (p. 193). This book does NOT provide a listing of dates of various Islamic 'holidays' or 'festivals' - the book provides handicraft projects that are suitable for any Islamic festival. Also, various "Arabisque" tile-drawing artwork is depicted for tracing or reproduction. There is also a 3-page "suggestions for teachers" section.

This book truly embraces the beauty of Islam, and the teachings of Islam, with respect to all the religions. I highly recommend this book to anyone out there who wants to learn more about, or research in depth the truth about this serene and peaceful religion. Happy Reading to all! :)

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