Our Creative Community:
Art for the Month of Ramadan

Utah Museum of Contemporary Art
Welcome!

Thank you so much for joining the Emerald Project and the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art during this special month.

For the next four weeks, we will learn more about how our Muslim friends and community members observe Ramadan. We will hear from members of the Emerald Project as they share their religious traditions, then create inspiring artwork together!

We invite Muslim students to share about their Ramadan traditions, and for all students to support and learn from their peers.

Let’s get started!
Week 1

Hear from our Emerald Project friends first by clicking here!

Nora and Satin told us about why Ramadan is a special, holy month for Muslims. The first day of Ramadan depends on the moon.

Let’s create a cool, textured moon artwork.
To create our foil-printed lunar artwork, we will need...

One paper plate
One white piece of paper
Some tinfoil
White and gray paint
Scissors
Glue

Watch this video or read the instructions below to create.

1. Cut your piece of white paper into a crescent shape.
2. Press your tinfoil into a ¼ cup measuring spoon to create a nice stamp shape.
3. Dip your tinfoil stamp into some white and gray paint.
4. Stamp on your crescent moon to create a texture you like.
5. After waiting for the paint to dry, glue the crescent to the side of your plate.
   * Optional: Paint the plate blue and add flecks for stars.

Vocabulary

texture
how something feels when you touch it, or how you imagine it feels while looking at it

lunar phases
The moon orbits, or circles, around the Earth. It takes one month for the moon to completely orbit around the Earth. During that time, different amounts of sunlight hit the moon and are reflected off its white, rock surface. That is why the moon seems like it glows!

Look at all these phases. Have you seen the moon glow in each of these phases at nighttime? It is always changing! Just like the moon takes one month to circle the Earth, Muslims follow Ramadan for one month.
Hear from our Emerald Project friends first by clicking [here](#)!

What do you do during Ramadan?

Just like Nora, Satin, Shayma, and Sam have explained so far, Muslims fast during Ramadan. That means they do not eat or drink anything while the sun is up. They have one meal before the sun rises, and one meal after the sun goes down. Fasting allows Muslims to take more time to think about all that is special and important to them. They focus on becoming a better person and helping those around them.
Let’s color this beautiful design. This design is like the decorative details in a mosque. *Template on final page.*

As you color, think about these three questions...

1. **What is something that is very important to you and why?**
2. **What are you grateful for?**
3. **What is one way you could be a better friend?**

**Vocabulary**

- **mosque**
  a religious building where Muslims meet to learn and worship

- **fasting**
  skipping one or more meals to focus on prayer and good actions.

- **right angle**
  a 90-degree angle, like the corner of a square

*The Blue Mosque, Istanbul, photo by Vince Millet*
Hear from our Emerald Project friends first by clicking [here](#)!

We just heard from Mo and Nour who told us some of their favorite things to eat before and after fasting. They both really like their mothers’ cooking!

During Ramadan, Muslims only eat two meals—one at the beginning, and one at the ending, of the day. Daytime is used to think, pray, and spend time with loved ones.
Let’s create a nighttime watercolor together!

You will need:

watercolor paints

a brush

a cup of water

a piece of thick paper

salt*

*(Yes, salt! Any kind of table salt works, but coarse is best)

Watch this video or read the instructions below to create.

1. Paint a night sky using your favorite colors. Maybe you use lots of dark blues and purples, or warm colors like a sunset.
2. Sprinkle a little bit of salt all over the wet paint.
3. Wait for it to dry, then brush off the salt.
4. Add any details you want.

Vocabulary

iftar
The meal that Muslims eat after the sun goes down to end their fast

Prophet Muhammad
The person who started Islam as a religion. He is considered a prophet and messenger of Allah (or God) by Muslims. He was born in Saudi Arabia about 1,500 years ago!

color palette
The colors the artists chooses for their artwork

warm colors
Reds, oranges, and yellows

cool colors
Blues, purples, and greens
Hear from our Emerald Project friends first by clicking here!

Maimoonah and Aya just told us about the Festival of Breaking Fast and all the fun things they do to celebrate the end of Ramadan. Do you have similar traditions with your family and friends? What is one meal or celebration that you look forward to all year?

For our last art project, we will create a growth and good deeds lantern.
You will need:

- wax crayons
- one 8.5”x11” piece of thick paper
- scissors
- tape
- optional: watercolors

Watch this video or read the instructions below to create.

1. Write down things you have learned and kind things you have done for other people this month.
2. Draw anything you want to fully cover your paper.
3. Optional: Paint over your crayon drawings with watercolors.
4. Fold your paper longways and cut in between your written sentences horizontally. Only cut halfway – do not cut the paper in half!
5. Roll your paper into a cylinder shape. Tape the ends so your lantern stays together.
6. Add a handle with a strip of paper and tape.
7. Optional: Add something creative like a popsicle stick or pipe cleaner to represent a candle.

Vocabulary

- **Eid al Fitr**
  Means ‘Feast of Breaking the Fast.’ It is a three-day celebration at the end of Ramadan. Muslims get together to share meals and prayers.

- **good deed**
  a nice action for someone else

- **cylinder**
  A three-dimensional version of a rectangle, with two straight sides and two circular ends.