

Summer 2 Week 10 RE

Lesson 2

Can I understand that religion can be expressed through writing and calligraphy?



An example of some Islamic calligraphy.

The development of sophisticated calligraphy as an art form is not unique to Islamic culture. Other examples include Chinese and Japanese calligraphy and illuminated bibles from north-west Europe including the famous Book of Kells.

In the Islamic world, however, calligraphy has been used to a much greater extent and in astonishingly varied and imaginative ways, which have taken the written word far beyond pen and paper into all art forms and materials. For these reasons, calligraphy may be counted as a uniquely original feature of Islamic art.

The Arabic language, and subsequently the art of calligraphy, is held in great esteem by Muslims because Arabic was the language in which the Qu'ran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad in the 7th century. The Arabic text of the Qu'ran is sacred to Muslims, and its high status gave rise to an associated respect for books in general.

In general, calligraphic inscriptions on works of art comprise one or more of the following types of text:

- Qu'ranic quotations
- other religious texts
- poems
- praise for rulers



A page from a Qu'ran decorated with calligraphy.

A tile with Arabic inscription, Iran, about 1215.



Allah's Messenger said: The first thing which Allah created was the Pen. He commanded it to write. It asked: What should I write? He said: Write the Decree (al-Qadr, the fate of all things). So it wrote what had happened and what was going to happen up to eternity.
(Tirmidhi)



14th Century tiles with Islamic calligraphy.

Your task today is to write your name using calligraphy styles.

There is a support document to help you.

You could use two colours of pen/pencil to add extra detail the support sheet shows how this works.

Don't forget you can share your work with the year group email.

year4@monkwickjunior.school

