

UKS2 Topic: Early Islamic Civilisation

Block G:
History of the Islamic Religion

Session 1
Resource pack

How to do Arabic calligraphy

You will need some paper, some ink or paint and some modelling tools or sticks tapered to a wide writing edge, like a flat head screwdriver.



Here a child is writing her name, Kat, in Arabic using the letters as they would be written in isolation, from right to left. Can you check if she has chosen the right letters?



After practising several times, Kat is now trying to write her name with K as an initial letter, the vowel A joined to it and the T as a final letter, which is slightly different.



Arabic letters and their equivalent in English

Arabic doesn't have some of the letters that the English alphabet has. Try to write your name using the closest sounds to the sounds in your name. Remember to write right to left rather than left to write!

A ا	D د	D ض	K ك
B ب	Z or DH ذ	T ط	L ل
T ت	R ر	DH or Z ظ	M م
TH ث	Z ز	A ع	N ن
J ج	S س	GH غ	H ه
H ح	SH ش	F ف	W or U و
KH خ	S ص	Q ق	Y or i ي

A ا	This is a long a as in <u>car</u>	A ع	This is a short a as in <u>A</u> merica
TH ث	This is a soft th as in <u>teeth</u> .	Z or DH ذ	This is a hard th as in <u>th</u> is
H ح	This is a strong h as in <u>wh</u> o	H ه	This is a soft h as in <u>h</u> ouse
S س	This is a soft s as in <u>s</u> nake	S ص	This is a strong s as in <u>s</u> ew
D د	This is a hard d as in <u>d</u> ark	D ض	This is a softer D as in <u>d</u> ream

Some vowels are made in Arabic by adding marks to the top or bottom of the consonants, whereas some are letters of their own that you have already seen (waw, alif and ya).

Name	Character		Pronunciation	Example	Transcription
Damma	◌َ	Damma is pronounced like the u in but.	u	بُت	but
Wāw	و	Waw is pronounced like oo in moon.	ū	بُوت	būt
Fatha	◌َ	Fatha is pronounced like the word a (as in <u>a</u> sheep).	a	بَت	bat
Alif	ا	Alif is the long a sound as in car.	ā	بَات	bāt
Kasra	◌ِ	Kasra is pronounced i as in pit.	i	بِت	bit
Ya'	ي	Ya is like the long ee in sheep.	ī	بِيْت	bīt

Tip: If you can't find a vowel like one that's in your name, miss it out.

Arabic letters change depending on whether they are at the front of the word, in the middle, at the end or on their own. Try to work out which version of the letter you need to spell your name.

Final Medial Initial Isolated				Final Medial Initial Isolated				Final Medial Initial Isolated			
Q	ق	ق	ق	Z	ز	ز	ز	A	ا	ا	ا
K	ك	ك	ك	S	س	س	س	B	ب	ب	ب
L	ل	ل	ل	SH	ش	ش	ش	T	ت	ت	ت
M	م	م	م	S	ص	ص	ص	TH	ث	ث	ث
N	ن	ن	ن	D	ض	ض	ض	J	ج	ج	ج
H	ه	ه	ه	T	ط	ط	ط	H	ح	ح	ح
W	و	و	و	DH	ظ	ظ	ظ	KH	خ	خ	خ
Y/I	ي	ي	ي	U	ع	ع	ع	D	د	د	د
				GH	غ	غ	غ	Z	ذ	ذ	ذ
				F	ف	ف	ف	R	ر	ر	ر

Squared Kufic script

Letter	Init	Medi	Fina	Isol	Variations	Notes
A ا	ا	ا	ا	ا	ا ا ا ا ا ا ا ا	Can be extended vertically
B T Th ث ت ب	ب	ب	ب	ب	ب ب ب ب ب ب ب ب	Can be extended horizontally in some final and isolated forms only
J H Kh خ ح ج	ح	ح	ح	ح	ح ح ح ح ح ح ح ح	Can be extended horizontally
D Dh ذ د	د	د	د	د	د د د د د د د د	Can be extended horizontally
R Z ز ر	ر	ر	ر	ر	ر ر ر ر ر ر ر ر © M. Sakka	
S Sh ش س	س	س	س	س	س س س س س س س س	Can be extended horizontally in some final and isolated forms only
Ṣ Ḍ ض ص	ص	ص	ص	ص	ص ص ص ص ص ص ص ص	Can be extended horizontally
T Z ظ ط	ط	ط	ط	ط	ط ط ط ط ط ط ط ط	Can be extended horizontally and vertically
ʿ Gh غ ع	ع	ع	ع	ع	ع ع ع ع ع ع ع ع	Can be extended horizontally in medial form only.
F ف	ف	ف	ف	ف	ف ف ف ف ف ف ف ف	Can be extended horizontally in final and isolated forms only
Q ق	ق	ق	ق	ق	ق ق ق ق ق ق ق ق	
K ك	ك	ك	ك	ك	ك ك ك ك ك ك ك ك	Can be extended horizontally
L ل	ل	ل	ل	ل	ل ل ل ل ل ل ل ل	Can be extended vertically; horizontally in final and isolated forms only
M م	م	م	م	م	م م م م م م م م	
N ن	ن	ن	ن	ن	ن ن ن ن ن ن ن ن	Can be extended horizontally in final and isolated forms only
H هـ	هـ	هـ	هـ	هـ	هـ هـ هـ هـ هـ هـ هـ هـ	Can be extended vertically in some final forms only
W و	و	و	و	و	و و و و و و و و © M. Sakka	
La لا	لا	لا	لا	لا	لا لا لا لا لا لا لا لا	Can be extended vertically
Y ي	ي	ي	ي	ي	ي ي ي ي ي ي ي ي	Can be extended horizontally in some final and isolated forms only
د ء					ء ء	