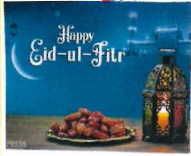# ASHURA

ISLAM PRACTICES FESTIVALS

ORIGINS:
It is a festival for ALL Muslims - the Day of Atonement.
Only a major festival for Shi'a
Remembers the death of Hussein at Karbala.

Meaning and importance:
A day of mourning + sorrow. Hussein was Muhammad's grandson.
Fought against a much larger army. 70 men killed. Women + children tortured.
Was a very tragic event + is still remembered by Shi'a Muslims with sorrow and grief.

How is it celebrated?
Some men beat themselves to try and connect with Hussein's suffering.
Some Shi'a Muslims go on pilgrimage to the shrine in Karbala.
Funeral like processions
Re-enactments and plays to retell the story.

In Britain: There are large street processions in big cities. Men feel they should draw blood - encouraged to donate blood instead of beat themselves.

ORIGINS:
Celebrated at the end of Hajj.
Remembers and honors Ibrahim + his sacrifice

Why is it important?
Remembers the prophet Ibrahim who was willing to sacrifice his son.
Shows how important obedience to Allah is. He always knows best and we must have faith in Him.
Ibrahim was given a ram to sacrifice instead of his son so Muslims now sacrifice an animal to remember this. They give leftover meat to the poor.

Id-ul-Fitr

ORIGINS:
Muhammad declared this as one of the 2 celebration days. It is the festival of breaking the fast. Celebrated at the end of Ramadan

Why is it important?
It has many names including the sugar feast, the sweet festival or lesser Eid.
Celebrating finishing a whole month of Ramadan.
Thanking God for the strength and help he has given them to fast a whole month.
Muslims are also thanking God for the Quran, which was revealed at this time.

How is it celebrated?
Gifts exchanged
Big family meal
Prayers in the mosque
Special clothes
Processions in the street
Sermons
Homes are decorated

In Britain
Many Muslims take the morning off and go to Mosque. They may visit the cemetery and remember family who have died.

Id-ul-Adha

Big party at the end of Hajj for those in Makkah.
Cards and presents given. Those on their own invited to join neighbours.

How is it Celebrated?
Muslims all over the world join in. They celebrate a successful Hajj.
Prayers at the mosque.
Animals slaughtered and meat donated.

In Britain
Similar to Christmas. Muslims visit the mosque for a service. They spend time with family and give presents. They may donate to charity instead of sacrificing an animal.