

*Pondering Over The Quran
On The Seashore*



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How to use this book?

If you are a teacher or a homeschooling mom, you can islamize the geogrpahy lesson about landforms by including this book in your curriculum. This book is especially designed to be used on the seashore or beach during a field trip. Other families can benefit from this book too on their trip to the beach.

Don't forget to take the below things on your trip:

1. Print out of this book (binded/ stapled). One for each child.
2. Writing and drawing materials (pencils, color pens, erasers, etc)
3. Clipboard (to hold the pages from flying away)
4. Recording of the Quran to play the ayahs of the Quran mentioned in the book (optional). Alternatively, the teacher or a child who is good at reciting can recite the ayahs out loud.

"Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'an, or are there locks upon [their] hearts?"

Surah Muhammed, 47:24

Benefits of the sea

وَهُوَ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ الْبَحْرَ لِتَأْكُلُوا مِنْهُ لَحْمًا طَرِيًّا وَتَسْتَخْرِجُوا مِنْهُ
حِلْيَةً تَلْبَسُونَهَا وَتَرَى الْفُلْكَ مَوَاجِرَ فِيهِ وَلِتَبْتَغُوا
مِنْ فَضْلِهِ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

And it is He who subjected the sea for you to eat from it tender meat and to extract from it ornaments which you wear. And you see the ships plowing through it, and [He subjected it] that you may seek of His bounty; and perhaps you will be grateful.

(Al- Nahl: 14)

Ponder.....

Write a list of things that humans benefit from sea with the help of above Ayah

Activity to do at home: Collect shells. Make a necklace/bracelet with seashells by poking the shells with a needle or pointed edge of the scissor and putting them together in a string. Boys can gift it to their mothers.

Draw a picture of your favorite thing that comes from the sea.

Allah's knowledge of His creation

وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ

And He knows whatever there is on the land and in the sea.
(Al An'am :59)

Ponder.....

Allah has knowledge about everything, including the creatures living in the sea and on land. Allah knows all the creatures in the sea, how many of each kind are in it, where they are, what they are doing, what that they need and much more.

Does this quality of Allah remind you of any of His Names? Which?

Yes... **Al 'Aleem! The All-Knowing**

Allah's knowledge cannot be compared to any other knowledge in creation. Our knowledge is preceded by ignorance and we gain knowledge by learning. We also forget. How many times have we studied something only to forget it the next day? Allah's 'ilm is neither acquired through learning nor preceded by ignorance; nothing in the heavens or on Earth escapes His notice.

There are more than a million species (kind) of creatures that live underwater!
Isn't it amazing how Allah has knowledge of all these creations?

وَمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ رِزْقُهَا وَيَعْلَمُ مُسْتَقَرَّهَا
وَمُسْتَوْذَعَهَا ۗ كُلٌّ فِي كِتَابٍ مُبِينٍ

And there is no creature on earth but that upon Allah is its provision, and He knows its place of dwelling and place of storage. All is in a clear register. (Hood: 6)

Ponder.....

Allah, the Exalted, informs us that He is responsible for the provisions of all the creatures that dwell in the earth, whether they are small, large, sea-dwelling or land-dwelling, as He is Ar-Razzaq (the Provider). He knows where their journeying will end and where they will seek shelter when they wish to nest. (Tafseer ibn Katheer)

A Poem.....

On top of a mountain,
or under the sea,
there are so many places
where creatures can be.

Alone in the desert,
or grouped on a farm
Or tucked in a tree
away from all harm.

On bright sunny grasslands,
or in a dark cave,
in jungles and forests
where all must be brave.

On ice in the Arctic,
Or holed underground,
there are so many places
where creatures can be found.

Discuss the names of the animals that are found in the different places mentioned in the poem. Example, "Which animals do you find in the desert?"

Ships are a sign of the Mercy of Allah

رَبُّكُمْ الَّذِي يُرْجِي لَكُمْ الْفُلْكَ فِي الْبَحْرِ لِتَبْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِهِ ۗ إِنَّهُ
كَانَ بِكُمْ رَحِيمًا

It is your Lord who drives the ship for you through the sea that you may seek of His bounty.
Indeed, He is ever, to you, Merciful. (Surah Isra', 66)

Discuss the benefits of sea, today and in the past.

Can you spot a ship? Or a lighthouse?

Ponder.....

Allah tells us of His kindness towards the people by allowing them to control the ships on the sea.
He makes it easy for them to use ships for their benefit,
seeking His provisions through trade between one region and another.

(Tafseer ibn Katheer)

Draw a picture of a ship

Barrier between two seas

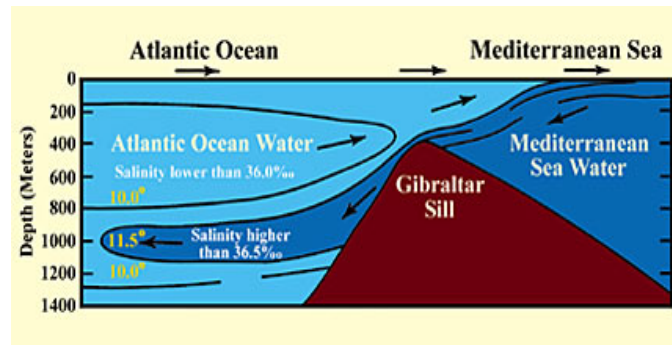
وَهُوَ الَّذِي مَرَجَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ هَذَا عَذْبٌ فُرَاتٌ وَهَذَا مِلْحٌ أُجَاجٌ
وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَهُمَا بَرْزَخًا وَحِجْرًا مَّحْجُورًا

And it is He who has released [simultaneously] the two seas, one fresh and sweet and one salty and bitter, and He placed between them a barrier and prohibiting partition. (Surah Al Furqan, 53)

Ponder.....

Modern Science has discovered that in the places where two different seas meet, there is a **barrier** between them. **This barrier divides the two seas** so that each sea has its own temperature, salinity, and density. For example, Mediterranean sea water is warm, saline, and less dense compared to Atlantic ocean water. When Mediterranean sea water enters the Atlantic, it moves several hundred kilometers into the Atlantic ocean water with its own warm, saline, and less dense characteristics. One kind of water inside another!

[Source: <https://www.islam-guide.com/ch-1-1e.htm>]



If the seas were ink

وَلَوْ أَنَّ فِي الْأَرْضِ مِنْ شَجَرَةٍ أَقْلَامٌ وَالْبَحْرُ يَمُدُّهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ سَبْعَةُ
أُبْحُرٍ مَا نَفَدَتْ كَلِمَاتُ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ

And if all the trees in the earth were pens, and the sea, with seven more seas to help it (were ink), the words of Allah would not come to an end. for Allah is Exalted in Power, full of Wisdom.

(Luqman: 27)

Ponder.....

If all the trees on earth were made into pens and the sea was made into ink, and topped up with seven more like it, and they were used to write the Words of Allah showing His might, attributes and majesty, the pens would break and the ink would run dry, even if more seven seas were brought. The number seven is used to indicate a large amount.

There is no limit to the knowledge of Allah.

(Tafseer ibn Katheer)

In this ayah we learn how wise and full of knowledge is Allah, The Most High.

The oceans would get used up if they were ink and the trees of the world would get used up if they were pens!

Take a look at the one sea in front of you and think about this ayah again!

The life of this world and Hereafter

Prophet Muhammed (sal-Allahu alayhi wa sallam) said, "By Allah, this world in comparison to the hereafter is nothing but as though one of you dipped his finger in the sea. So ponder how much (of sea water) the finger returns with." [Mishkaat]

Ponder.....

Islam teaches us that this life is temporary. It will someday come to an end for us and an end for humanity altogether, but the Hereafter is eternal. The realities of Paradise and Hellfire will last forever, so our most important goal in this life should be preparing ourselves for the Hereafter by doing good deeds.

The experiences or time of this life is almost nothing compared to the Hereafter. When we dip our fingers into the sea, the little bit of water we pull out is almost nothing compared to the entire sea. In the same way, the temporary experience of this world is almost nothing compared to the Hereafter.

For this reason, the people of Paradise will forget whatever pleasures they had in this world and the people of Hellfire will forget the pleasure they had in this world.

Go ahead and dip your finger in the sea. Look at the water on your finger and then look at the water still remaining in the sea. Can you imagine how short or little is this world compared to the Hereafter?



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All thanks and Praise is for Allah Alone.

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