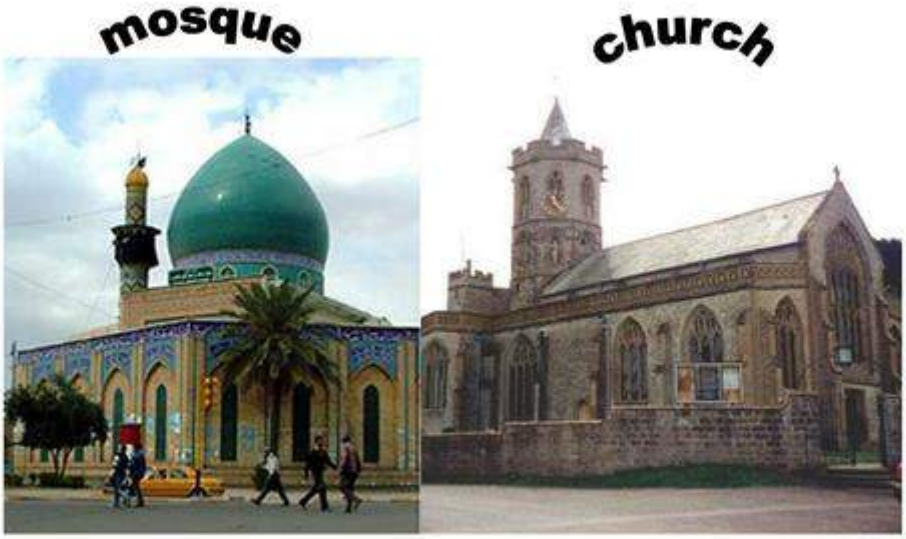
Wk. 11.05.20 Year 6 English 2

SHQ: How do we write a non-chronological report?



Having completed some work on the features of non-chronological reports, we can now apply this to writing our own. The aim is to write a report about the differences between Christian and Muslim places of worship i.e. churches and mosques. This links in to our half-termly topic about *Sacred Places* and why certain places are important to us.

The outline of this report could be organised in the following way:

- Introduction: state what the report is about with possibly a brief background on what churches and mosques are
- Provide information about Christian churches e.g. their architecture, significant exterior and interior features (spire, font, altar etc.)
- Provide information about Islamic mosques
- Conclusion: discuss the similarities and differences between the two significant religious building and why they are important to the people who use them

Before starting to write, it would be a good idea to make some notes based on your own research, so that constructing sections and sentences is easier. Included is some information about churches and mosques, but of course you may wish to use the internet or books to find out your own facts.

The Christian Church

Architecture

Many churches were first small buildings but became extended as the local population grew in size. When you look at these churches you can sometimes see differences in the way the stones are laid. There were changes in architectural style through history so a church may show several styles

Some parish churches which were built in industrial towns in the nineteenth century were built large and have not been extended. Some small parish churches may have been built in the form of a cross with the nave chancels and transepts being equal in length. This shape of cross is called a Greek cross.

The layout of a church may be thought of as showing a path to heaven. A person starts at the main door and travels through the nave. At the end of the nave is an archway which is often filled with a screen. Beyond this a person travels through the chancel towards the altar which is raised up to make people look upwards. In some churches the east end wall is curved to form a structure called the apse. The curved part of the apse does not present any corners that the eye can focus on behind the altar and gives a sense of endless space.

Parts of the Church

Altar

The altar is the holiest part of the church and it's the focal point for worshippers. Located in a sacred place called the chancel, it is used to hold and prepare the bread and wine taken in communion. The bread symbolises Jesus' body and the wine symbolises Jesus' blood. During communion, members of the Church come to the Altar to eat a small piece of bread and take a sip of wine to remember Jesus. The Altar is covered with a coloured cloth. The colour of the cloth changes depending on the time of year.

Font

The font is a stone container that holds the water used by the vicar to baptise someone. A person becomes part of the church when they get baptised as it shows to others that they want to follow Jesus. This is why the font is usually near the main entrance. It symbolises a person entering Christianity.

Pulpit

The pulpit is a raised platform where the vicar/clergy may stand to preach his or her sermon. It is raised to make sure that everyone can see the person who is preaching. The pulpit at St Jerome's has an angel carved in the front of it.

Lectern

The Lectern is also known as the reading stand. Members of the congregation stand here to read passages from the Bible, lead the congregation in prayer and make announcements.
Many lecterns are carved in the shape of an eagle to symbolise St Matthew. They also symbolise the good news travelling around the world.

Choir Stalls

This is where the people who sing during the service may sit. Choir stalls are located between the nave and the chancel. They are separated from the nave by a choir screen.

Pew

A pew is a long bench used for the church congregation to sit on. Pews are usually made from wood and arranged in rows facing the altar. The slots behind each pew hold hymn books.
In St Jerome's, cushions are kept behind each pew so that people can kneel and pray comfortably.
Pews first appeared at the end of the medieval period. Before then, this area would have been an open space.

Nave

This is the area where the congregation sit.

Aisle

The pathway left between pews for people to pass through.

Stained Glass Windows

They often remind people of stories from the bible and also add colour to the church. The stained glass window above the altar in St Jerome's reminds Christians of Jesus as a shepherd.

Organ

This is the musical instrument that is played at the beginning of every service and accompanies hymns.

Church Bell

The church bell is hung in the church tower. The rope inside the church is attached to the bell so that when the rope is pulled, the bell rings. The bell is rung at the beginning of every service.

Apse

The Apse may be found at the east end of the Chancel because this is the direction of Jerusalem. The main entrance to the church is usually found west of the building.

Mosques

The center of Islamic life, mosques are buildings of worship for Muslims. Some mosques are large and elaborately decorated, while others may simply be a modest room in an office or apartment building. There are a few basic features most mosques have, and they serve a variety of purposes for worshipers.

Prayer Hall

The center of most mosques is a large hall where congregants gather to perform their five daily prayers, read holy texts and listen to a Friday sermon. Typically, a carpet will cover the prayer hall, which will have little to no furniture and may be decorated with geometric patterns and designs. However, there will be no pictures of people and animals, as the Quran restricts such imagery.

Mihrab

When praying, Muslims face the Saudi Arabian city of Mecca, which is home to the Kaaba, a small building constructed by Abraham for worshiping God that is the holiest point in Islam. To ensure worshipers are positioned correctly, mosques contain a mihrab, a marker or niche on the wall of the building facing the holy city. Some mihrabs are simple, while others are elaborately decorated with designs and inscriptions.

Minaret

Many mosques have a tower equipped with speakers for broadcasting the call to prayer, traditionally sung by a man known as a muezzin, five times a day. However, the minarets of many mosques in the West are only for decorative purposes, as some countries do not allow the call to be played in public areas. Some mosques however, like the Masjid Al Haram in Saudi Arabia, have multiple minarets to ensure the call is heard far and wide.

Ablution Area

Before prayers, Muslims perform ritual ablutions, known as wudu, to cleanse themselves of impurities. To accommodate this rite, many mosques contain a special area where worshipers may wash themselves. Some ablution areas are large and elaborate, though others are basic, consisting of just a few taps. For instance, the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi has an ablution fountain surrounded by marble seats where worshipers sit and rinse themselves with water.

Dome

Many traditionally designed mosques feature domes. In hot countries, a dome will help keep the mosque cool, according to Education Islam. Domes also help to amplify the voice of an imam giving a sermon, enabling all worshipers to listen.

The Interior

Near the front of the worship space is a structure called the Minbar, the raised steps from which the imam delivers the sermon at the Friday prayer. Near the Minbar stands a roofed niche called the Mihrab. This nook indicates the direction of the Ka'aba, the cube-shaped building in Mecca that is the most sacred site in Islam. All mosques are built facing the Ka'aba, and Muslims should always face in this direction while praying.

The words of the Quran, the holy book that Muslims hold to be the words of Allah (God) revealed to the prophet Muhammad in the 7th century, are everywhere in the prayer hall, often in flowing Arabic script. The hall may also be decorated with intricate patterns running the length of the walls, pillars, ceilings and floors. Pictures or statues are absent, in observation of the warning in the Hadith (the sayings, actions or traditions of Muhammad and his companions that are not part of the Quran) that depictions of living things can lead to idolatry.

Shelves lined with books on Islamic philosophy, theology and law, along with collections of the sayings and traditions of Muhammad, are common features of any mosque. Copies of the Quran are also made available to worshippers, along with wooden book holders (rihal/tawla) that are provided so that readers can avoid placing the Quran on the ground.

Every mosque has a place for zakat, or charity, where Muslims may donate money to help the poor or to support the mosque.

In addition to prayers, mosques often host meetings for spiritual revivaland adult education (halaqa). Many mosques have an attached school, or madrasah, in which children learn the traditions, laws, holy books and prophets of Islam, and the Arabic language.

Rituals

The Quran does not forbid women from entering mosques, but certain rules exist governing interaction between men and women. Women worship in a separate chamber, usually from where they, too, can see the imam (the congregational prayer leader), although some mosques show the imam via television instead.

Prior to praying, it's customary to perform a cleansing ritual (called wudu), washing the ears, face, hands, arms (up to the elbows) and feet. Many larger mosques have washrooms set aside for this purpose, with a large central fountain circled by small benches; wudu may also be performed in a pool or fountain outside. In both cases, the facilities are usually located in the courtyard, and men and women carry out wudu separately.

Worshippers enter the prayer hall by stepping with the right foot first and saying, "Oh Allah, open the door of mercy for me." Once inside, the worshippers perform two cycles of a prayer (rak'a), a mosque salutation (called Tahiyatul-Masjid), with the traditional sequences of standing, kneeling and prostration.

Writing checklist

Working towards the expected standard		
• using paragraphs to organise ideas		
• describing settings and characters		
• using some cohesive devices* within and across sentences and paragraphs		
• using different verb forms mostly accurately		
• using co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions		
• using mostly correctly:	capital letters	
	full stops	
	question marks	
	exclamation marks	
	commas for lists	
	apostrophes for contraction	
• spelling most words correctly* (year 3 and 4)		
• spelling some words correctly* (year 5 and 6)		
• producing legible joined handwriting		

Working at the expected standard		
• creating atmosphere, and integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action		
• selecting vocabulary and grammatical structures that reflect the level of formality required mostly correctly		
• using a range of cohesive devices*, including adverbials, within and across sentences and paragraphs sentences and paragraphs		
• using passive and modal verbs mostly appropriately		
• using a wide range of clause structures, sometimes varying their position within the sentence		
• using adverbs, preposition phrases and expanded noun phrases effectively to add detail, qualification and precision		
• using mostly correctly:	inverted commas	
	commas for clarity	
	punctuation for parenthesis	
• making some correct use of:	semi-colons	
	dashes	
	colons	
	hyphens	
• spelling most words correctly* (year 5 and 6)		
• maintaining legibility, fluency and speed in handwriting through choosing whether or not to join specific letters.		