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| **Islamic faith** |

Islamic faith is based on the Islamic holy book, the Qur’an, which followers of Islam believe to be the word of God as revealed through the Archangel Gabriel to the Prophet Mohammed.

Write and illustrate a story about the lamps on the Ardabil Carpet. The two mosque lamps that appear on the Ardabil carpet are very different in size. Some people think this was done to create a perspective effect, others think that the difference is a deliberate flaw in the design, reflecting the Islamic belief that perfection belongs to God alone.

Write a story to explain the difference in size between the lamps. Why did you think this was done? Who owned the carpet and what was it used for? How did the carpet find its way to the Museum?

Design a border for your work in the style of the borders found on the Ardabil carpet or other carpets in the Jameel Gallery.

Act out your story back at school with the help of some friends.

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| **Islamic art & Design** |

Islamic decoration consists of three main elements, which are often combined in the decorative scheme on a single object: Calligraphy, plant like designs and geometric shapes.

Design and make an Ottoman tile

inspired by the Ottoman chimneypiece and other Ottoman objects in the gallery. Make sketches of the motifs and patterns found in the gallery to help you when you go back to school. For this task, you could:

* Decorate plain tiles with ceramic paint or ceramic pens.
* Make tiles from clay and decorate them.
* Make a tile shape in card and decorate using sketches made in the gallery.

Make a class display of all of the tile designs. Can you make further patterns or designs by bringing them together?

Write a story about the tiles, think about the following questions to help you: Where are they from? What building did they decorate? Who lived or prayed there? Why were they used?

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| **TRADE and cultural interaction** |

Luxury goods such as carpets and inlaid metalwork were exported to Europe, and other items such as Chinese porcelain were imported. Artists and designers in the Islamic Middle East were influenced by the style of foreign imports and their work also influenced art in other countries.

Design a square of carpet, inspired by the colours and motifs in the gallery at the V&A. Make initial sketches of the patterns and designs found in the carpets on display, in particular look at the key features of the Ardabil carpet, which include:

* Patterned borders
* Lamps
* A central motif
* A background pattern

Assemble and display the squares to make one big carpet. How does this compare to the Ardabil carpet?

Look back at sketches from the galleries. Which other types of objects did you see that had these types of decoration on them? Can you imagine a whole room filled with these objects? What would it look like? How might it be used?