



FAMILY REFLECTIONS PROGRAM



DIAMOND JUBILEE
1957 • 2017

Jamatkhana Development and Ismaili Centres - August 2017

Activity: Build a Jamatkhana

Purpose

To understand the significance of the Jamatkhana space and to explore architectural and design elements in Jamatkhana and Ismaili Centres.

Description

Talk about the Jamatkhana you go to and what it looks like. Now, look up photographs of Jamatkhana and Ismaili Centres around the world. Choose one of them that you have been to or would like to visit to recreate. Use materials you have such as lego, popsicle sticks, straws, cardboard. Or, if you prefer, draw or paint a Jamatkhana or Ismaili Centre. Be sure to look at the building from different perspectives—how does it look from the front? What would it look like if you had a bird's eye view from above? What are the prominent features of the building? What details are you most drawn to?

Reflection and discussion questions

1. What are the various functions that take place in the Jamatkhana and Ismaili Centre space? (spiritual, social, educational ...).
2. Why is the Jamatkhana space so important to Ismailis around the world? Read the story from Primary Talim and talk about what about going to Jamatkhana makes you happy?
3. What are 3 common elements you found when looking at the different Jamatkhana and Ismaili Centres? (e.g., garden, dome, pillars, water feature, geometric patterns, Arabic calligraphy)?
4. How do you think the architectural and design elements impact your experience of being in Jamatkhana?
5. If you were to design a brand new Jamatkhana or Ismaili Centre, what would you include and why?

Trivia: How many Ismaili Centres are in the world? What countries are they in?

Resources

Primary Ta'lim

- [Primary 2 Book 3 –Murids of Imam az-Zaman page 6-9.](#)

Links to photos of Jamatkhana

- <https://the.ismaili/microsite/homepage-0>
- Search for 'Jamatkhana' on the.ismaili and view the galleries

Useful links

- <http://www.akdn.org/our-agencies/aga-khan-trust-culture>
- <http://www.akdn.org/video/aga-khan-garden-edmonton-canada>

Bonus activity: Create a two to three-minute video describing the features in your favourite Jamatkhana or Ismaili Centre. Combine descriptive and emotional characteristics to describe the building and how it feels.

Share your experiences: Please text or email your experience and feedback to JubileelInfo@usaji.org.

Please include the words Family Reflections Program in the subject line of your e-mail.