



مجلس أبوظبي للتعليم
Abu Dhabi Education Council

GRADE 12
Trimester 2

ADEC ENGLISH TEACHING RESOURCE BANK

TWO FAMOUS MOSQUES





Before you read

Work in groups. Describe a memorable mosque that you have visited. What in particular makes the mosque you described stand out in your mind? Why?

Two Famous Mosques

The Blue Mosque, Istanbul, Turkey

Istanbul is a city in Turkey that is very popular with tourists. One of the most popular tourist attractions in the city is the Blue Mosque, also known as the Sultan Ahmet Mosque. Istanbul is best viewed from the sea and the mosque forms part of its magnificent scenery.

The Blue Mosque is one of the most famous monuments of Islamic and Turkish art. It was designed by Mehmet Aga after the ruler at the time, Sultan Ahmet, ordered that it be built. The building was completed in 1616 after having been under construction for seven years.

A classical example of Turkish architecture, the Blue Mosque is the only structure that was originally built with six minarets or *manara*. It was originally part of a large complex containing a covered bazaar, Turkish baths, public kitchens, a hospital and a school.

The Mosque was designed with three entrances. The walls of the galleries surrounding the three sides are decorated with over twenty thousand Iznik tiles. The areas above the tiles and the inside of the domes are decorated with paintwork.

As in all mosques, many carpets cover the floor. These carpets are donated by faithful Muslims and are regularly replaced as they become old and worn.

The many lamps inside the Mosque were covered with gold and gems. All these decorations were either stolen or removed to be placed in museums. The great tablets on the walls were inscribed with the names of caliphs and include verses from the Holy Quran. The tomb of Sultan Ahmet, the patron of the Mosque, who died at the age of 27, can be found in a separate building on the north side of the property.

The Sultan Ahmet, also known as the Blue Mosque, forms a focal point in city tours and is such a popular attraction that admission is controlled to preserve its sacred atmosphere.

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque was commissioned by His Highness Sheikh Zayed, the late president of the U.A.E. He wanted to establish a structure which would unite the Islamic World. It was constructed from 1996 to 2007. Sheikh Zayed's tomb is located in the grounds beside the Mosque.

The design and construction united the world because the people involved and the material used in the construction came from more than 154 countries. Most materials used were natural: marble, stone, gold, gems, crystals and ceramics. The design was influenced by Persian, Moghul and Moorish architecture and became a fusion of these cultures with many magnificent examples of Islamic-inspired elements.

The mosque has four minarets on the four corners of the courtyard and consists of a main prayer hall and two similar halls. It has many unique features – the Persian carpet in the main hall is considered to be the largest in the world. It also contains seven chandeliers (lights) imported from Germany and contains millions of Swarovski crystals. The unique outside lighting system was designed to reflect the phases of the moon.

On the Qibla wall the ninety-nine names of Allah are featured in traditional Kofi calligraphy designed by Mohammad Manda Al Tamimi. The ninety-six columns are covered in marble and are inlaid with mother of pearl. This craftsmanship is the work of a family-owned company in Agra, India. The Mosque is Abu Dhabi's most well-known tourist attraction. It sits prominently at the entrance to Abu Dhabi Island. Tourists who visit must be modestly dressed and may not go inside the Mosque during prayer times.



Reading Comprehension

Read the questions then reread the text to locate the information you need to answer the questions. Answer in complete sentences.

1) Which mosque took longer to build?

2) What is another name for Istanbul's Blue Mosque?

3) What other buildings did the original Blue Mosque complex contain?

4) Why is tourist admission to the Blue Mosque controlled?

5) Why did His Highness Sheikh Zayed want to build the Grand Mosque?

6) Which cultures influenced the design of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque?

7) List three unique features of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.

8) What rules must tourists follow when visiting the Grand Mosque?

Grammar

Prepositions of place

Prepositions are used to describe the location, direction or time of something. The prepositions here are all **prepositions of place** and are used to describe the **location** of something.

in عن at to over under inside beside

Choose the correct preposition to complete the sentences. The first one is done as an example.

- 0) There are many carpets on the floor of the Blue Mosque.
 A) on B) in C) over
- 1) There are many Iznik tiles _____ the walls of the Blue Mosque.
 A) on B) in C) under
- 2) The area _____ the tiles is painted.
 A) over B) under C) inside
- 3) There are seven chandeliers _____ the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.
 A) at B) on C) in
- 4) The columns of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque are covered _____ marble.
 A) in B) on C) to
- 5) The grave of H. H. Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan is located _____ the Sheikh Zayed Mosque.
 A) under B) inside C) beside

Vocabulary

First skim the text and underline the words in the box. Then, use the words to complete the following sentences. The first one is done as an example.

scenery monuments decorated fusion imported inspired

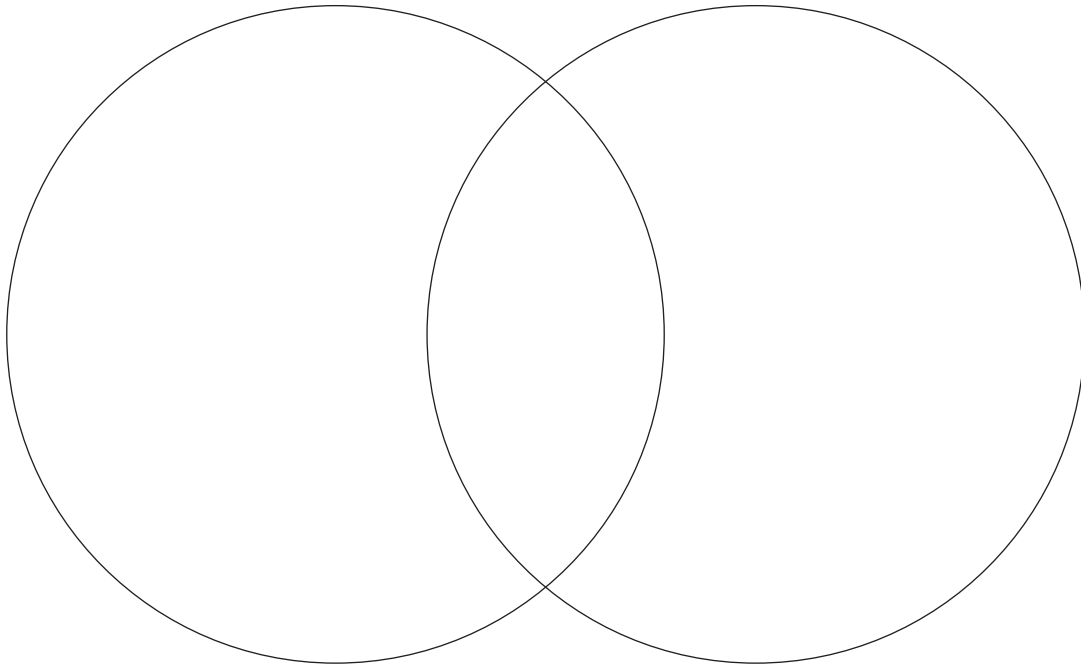
- 0) The beautiful scenery around the town included snow-topped mountains and a waterfall.
- 1) After we moved into our new apartment we _____ by painting the walls and buying new curtains.
- 2) We like to eat fruit such as pineapples and mangoes, which are _____ from different countries.
- 3) The restaurant serves a _____ type of food; it is a mix of Japanese and French cooking.

- 4) The park had many _____ and statues which were important in the city's history.
- 5) The artist was deeply _____ by the hard work of her mother and grandmother.



Critical Thinking

Work with a partner. Complete a Venn diagram to show the similarities and differences between the Blue Mosque and the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.



Writing

Write a compare and contrast essay comparing the Blue Mosque and the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque using information from the texts. Refer to the Venn diagram you created in the previous activity to help organize your essay.



Extension

Research another famous building in the U.A.E. to create a presentation to inform your classmates about it. You may like to compare it with another building as well.