



name: _____

date: _____

Physical miracles

1 the moon splitting

- 1 With your group, read the description below about the miracle of the moon splitting.
- 2 Use what you learn to discuss the follow-up questions and record your individual response below each question.
- 3 On your poster, create an infographic illustrating the moon-splitting. Refer to the rubric for details of the project's expectations.

“The Hour has come near, and the moon has split [in two]. And if they see any miracle, they turn away and say, ‘Passing magic.’ And they denied and followed their desires—and every matter will be settled” (Qur’an 54:1-3).

In an attempt to stump him, disbelievers from the Quraysh clan demanded an undeniable sign from the Prophet ﷺ, which led to Allah splitting the moon before their eyes; the Prophet ﷺ then said, “Behold.” The baffled crowd said that Muhammad must have cast a spell on them, but since he could not have cast a spell on everyone, they decided to ask the travelers from surrounding areas if they saw what they did. They sent riders racing out to question those beyond the city of Mecca, and they too confirmed having seen the exact same phenomenon. Ultimately, the idolaters from Quraysh chose denial and, because nobody could deny seeing the moon split, they were forced to deny their own eyes.

Alongside showcasing many reports of the moon-splitting, Ibn Kathīr (d. 1373) brings a key aspect of this incident to our attention: “When the moon split, it never left the sky, rather it cleaved once the Prophet ﷺ gestured to it and became two pieces. It [only] proceeded to hover behind Mount Ḥirā’, setting the mountain between itself and its counterpart, as described by the companion ‘Abdullah Ibn Mas‘ūd who reports witnessing this himself.”



name: _____

date: _____

Discussion questions

1 Summarize the incident of the moon splitting. What makes it a *mu'jiza* in the true sense of the word?

2 What effect do you think this incident had on the people who witnessed it?

3 What are your thoughts after reading about this incident? Do you feel that it lends support to Muhammad's claim to prophethood?



name: _____

date: _____

Physical miracles

2 the night journey

- 1 With your group, read the description below about the miracle of the night journey.
- 2 Use what you learn to discuss the follow-up questions and record your individual response below each question.
- 3 On your poster, create an infographic illustrating the night journey. Refer to the rubric for details of the project's expectations.

“Glory be to the One who took His servant [Muhammad] by night from the Sacred Mosque to the Aqsa Mosque...so that We may show him of Our signs. Indeed, He alone is the All-Hearing, All-Seeing” (Qur’an 17:1).

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was taken from Mecca to Jerusalem and back in a single night; a journey that would ordinarily take a full month for any traveler in the 7th century. When the pagans caught scent of this story being shared the following morning, they became jubilant with hopes of finally proving Muhammad was a madman. They rushed to gather everyone around him, and to their delight, people literally fell off their seats in laughter upon hearing this ‘ludicrous tale’ from the Prophet. Saddened by their mockery and disbelief, he ﷺ proceeded to the Ka’ba where he praised God and asked Him to be re-shown Jerusalem. To the dismay of everyone present, the Prophet then began describing that blessed city in inexplicable detail, as if he was walking through it at that very moment. People nervously turned to the Meccan traders who—unlike Muhammad—were known to frequent Jerusalem, only to find them admitting his accuracy. Many still denied him and stormed out in frustration.

In addition to the Qur’an describing this night journey, al-Kattāni (d. 1927) collected the names of forty-five different companions who reported in corroboration this astonishing event. In one of these narrations, ‘Aisha reports that even some Muslims felt this miracle was too outrageous to accept, and reneged on their Islam that morning as a result. They rushed to her father, Abu Bakr, and said in protest, “Your companion is claiming he was taken to Jerusalem last night.” Abu Bakr asked, “Did he say that?” They said, “Yes.” He said, “If he did, in fact, say that, then he has been truthful.” They said, “You are willing to believe that he was carried to Jerusalem in a single night?” He said, “Yes, for I believe him about something that is more astonishing than that; I believe that he receives messages from heaven in the blink of an eye.” ‘Aisha says that it was from that day forward that Abu Bakr was crowned with the title aṣ-Ṣiddīq (the confirmer of truth). The Qur’an is filled with parallels of this miracle, such as God splitting time for the man who slept a hundred years without aging while his donkey decomposed (Qur’an 2:259), and for



name: _____

date: _____

the youth and their dog who slept for 309 years while generations were born and died outside their cave (Qur'an 18:9-25).

Discussion questions

1 Summarize the incident of the night journey. What makes it a *mu'jiza* in the true sense of the word?

2 What effect do you think this incident had on the people who witnessed it?

3 What are your thoughts after reading about this incident? Do you feel that it lends support to Muhammad's claim to prophethood?



name: _____

date: _____

Physical miracles

3 the weeping tree

- 1 With your group, read the description below about the miracle of the weeping tree.
- 2 Use what you learn to discuss the follow-up questions and record your individual response below each question.
- 3 On your poster, create an infographic illustrating the weeping tree. Refer to the rubric for details of the project's expectations.

'Abdullāh b. 'Umar (rA) reports that the Prophet ﷺ used to deliver his sermons while standing beside the trunk of a date-palm tree. Upon the request of an Anṣārī woman, the Prophet ﷺ permitted that a small pulpit of three steps be constructed for him so that he would be more visible and project his voice farther into the growing audience. When the Prophet ﷺ ascended the new pulpit on the following Friday, loud sounds of weeping emerged from this tree trunk. The Prophet ﷺ descended and proceeded over to it, and began rubbing his hand over it just as someone does to quiet a child. Anas b. Mālik (rA) adds, "And the mosque shook from its whimpers." Sahl b. Sa'd (rA) adds, "Many people started weeping from hearing its crying and moaning." Ibn 'Abbās (rA) adds, "He ﷺ went and hugged it until it quieted, then said [to us], 'Had I not embraced it, it would have continued like this until the Day of Resurrection.'" Jabir (rA) adds, "It was weeping over the Revelation that it would hear [recited] close by."

Imam ash-Shāfi'i (d. 820) said, "God never granted any prophet what He granted Muhammad." 'Amr b. Sawād disagreed, saying, "Jesus was given the ability to revive the dead..." He replied, "Muhammad was granted the whimpering of the tree-trunk, till it could be heard, and this is greater than that." Ibn Kathīr cites this exchange and then explains; "He said it was greater because a tree-trunk is not subject to becoming alive [as humans are], and yet it became sensitive and emotional when he left it for the pulpit. It whimpered and moaned like a pregnant camel does until Allah's Messenger ﷺ stepped down and embraced it." This should never be understood as slighting the previous signs of God or His messengers, as that is tantamount to disbelief in Islam.



name: _____

date: _____

Discussion questions

1 Summarize the incident of the weeping tree. What makes it a *mu'jiza* in the true sense of the word?

2 What effect do you think this incident had on the people who witnessed it?

3 What are your thoughts after reading about this incident? Do you feel that it lends support to Muhammad's claim to prophethood?



name: _____

date: _____

Physical miracles

4 increased water supply

- 1 With your group, read the description below about the miracle of the increased water supply.
- 2 Use what you learn to discuss the follow-up questions and record your individual response below each question.
- 3 On your poster, create an infographic illustrating the increased water supply. Refer to the rubric for details of the project's expectations.

Ibn Mas'ūd (rA) said, "We used to consider miracles as Allah's blessings, but you people consider them to be threatening. We were once with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ on a journey, and our water ran short. He said, "Bring me the remaining water." The people presented him a vessel containing water, which he then placed his hands inside of and said, "Come get the blessed purification water, and all blessings are from Allah." I saw the water flowing from between the fingers of Allah's Messenger ﷺ. Indeed, we used to also hear the food glorifying Allah as it was being eaten [by him]."

Jābir b. 'Abdillāh (rA) narrated that the people became very thirsty on the Day of Ḥudaybiya. There was a small pot containing some water in front of the Prophet ﷺ, and he found the people rushing towards him as he finished performing his ritual ablution using it. He ﷺ asked them, "What has happened?" They said, "We neither have water for ablution nor drinking." So he ﷺ placed his palm into that pot, and water began flowing upwards from between his fingers like springs. He said, "All those seeking ablution, come forward; the blessing is from Allah." Jābir said, "We all drank and performed ablution [from that pot], and I did not care how much I drank because I knew it was blessed." One narrator asked Jābir, "How many were you?" He said, "Even if we had been one hundred thousand, it would have been sufficient for us, but we were fifteen hundred." Anas b. Malik (rA) personally narrated several other nearly identical incidents of water pouring forth from between the Prophet's ﷺ blessed fingers.

These reports may indicate that water was emerging from the actual fingers of the Prophet ﷺ, or that it sprang through the gaps between them. Ibn 'Abdil-Barr (d. 1071) explains, "What the Prophet ﷺ was granted in this inimitable miracle is clearer than the signs of the other prophets, and even the most notable of them, such as what Moses had been granted when he struck the stone with his staff, causing twelve springs to erupt from it. That is because some



name: _____

date: _____

stones can be found with springs erupting from them, while water emerging from between the fingers of a human being has never been witnessed from anyone but our Prophet.

Discussion questions

① Summarize the incident of the increased water supply. What makes it a *mu'jiza* in the true sense of the word?

② What effect do you think this incident had on the people who witnessed it?

③ What are your thoughts after reading about this incident? Do you feel that it lends support to Muhammad's claim to prophethood?



name: _____

date: _____

Physical miracles

5 increased food supply

- 1 With your group, read the description below about the miracle of the increased food supply.
- 2 Use what you learn to discuss the follow-up questions and record your individual response below each question.
- 3 On your poster, create an infographic illustrating the increased food supply. Refer to the rubric for details of the project's expectations.

Salama b. al-Akwa' (rA) narrates: We once set out on an expedition with Allah's Messenger ﷺ and faced great hardship, and decided to slaughter some of our riding animals [for food]. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ ordered us to pool our food rations, so we spread a sheet and leather where everyone's rations were collected. I stretched myself to assess how much that was, and it was [only] the area a small goat could sit on. We were fourteen hundred people; we ate to our satisfaction and then filled our bags with provisions. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ then said, "Is there any water for performing ablution?" A man came forward with a small container that held very little water, which the Prophet ﷺ emptied into a wider basin. From that amount all thoroughly performed their ablution. Eight individuals later came and said, "Is there any water left to perform ablution?" Allah's Messenger ﷺ replied, "The ablution water has finished."

As Imam an-Nawawi points out elsewhere, "When a Companion narrates something this incredible, and cites as evidence personally attending it himself along with the other Companions, who hear his narration and claim or hear about it, and do not denounce him, that further confirms it and necessitates [sure] knowledge about the truth of his words." Anas b. Mālik (rA) reports: Abu Talḥa said to Um Sulaym, "I have heard the voice of Allah's Messenger ﷺ reflecting weakness, and I could recognize hunger in it. Do you have anything?" She said, "Yes." She pulled out several wheat loaves, wrapped them in her veil, then tucked them under my arm and wrapped me with the remaining part of the veil. She sent me to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and, upon reaching the mosque, I found people with him. I stood beside them, until the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said to me, "Did Abu Talḥa send you?" I said, "Yes." He said, "With food?" I said, "Yes." The Messenger of Allah ﷺ then said to the people, "Let us go." They took off, and I took off in front of them until I reached Abu Talḥa and informed him. Abu Talḥa said, "O Um Sulaym, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ has come, accompanied by the people, and we have nothing to feed them." She said, "Allah and His Messenger know best." Upon arrival, the



name: _____

date: _____

Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “O Um Sulaym, what do you have?” She presented that same bread, which the Prophet ﷺ took and shredded, and then Um Sulaym emptied her jar of shortening (butter) over it as a condiment. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ then supplicated over it for however long he wished before saying, “Permit for ten [to enter].” They were permitted entrance and ate to their fill before leaving. Then he said, “Permit for ten.” They too were permitted entrance and ate to their fill before leaving. Then he said, “Permit for ten.” Everyone ate in this fashion, until they all had their fill, and they were seventy or eighty men in total.

Discussion questions

- 1 Summarize the incident of the increased food supply. What makes it a *mu'jiza* in the true sense of the word?
- 2 What effect do you think this incident had on the people who witnessed it?
- 3 What are your thoughts after reading about this incident? Do you feel that it lends support to Muhammad's claim to prophethood?



name: _____

date: _____

Physical miracles

6 answered prayers

- 1 With your group, read the description below about the miracle of the answered prayers.
- 2 Use what you learn to discuss the follow-up questions and record your individual response below each question.
- 3 On your poster, create an infographic illustrating the answered prayers. Refer to the rubric for details of the project's expectations.

Anas (rA) narrates that as the Prophet ﷺ was once delivering a Friday sermon, a man rose up and said, “O Messenger of Allah, the horses and sheep have perished; will you not invoke Allah to bless us with rain?” The Prophet ﷺ proceeded to lift his two hands and supplicated at a time when the sky was as clear as glass. Suddenly wind blew, driving together the clouds and causing heavy rain. We exited [the mosque] wading through the flowing water till we reached our homes. It kept raining until the following Friday, when the same man—or another man—stood up and said, “O Messenger of Allah ﷺ, the houses have [almost] collapsed; please ask Allah to withhold the rain!” On that, the Prophet ﷺ smiled and said, “O Allah, [let it rain] around us and not upon us.” I looked to the clouds and found them separating into a crown-like formation around Medina.

Abu Hurayra (rA) narrates that he once came to the Prophet ﷺ with tears in his eyes, which caused him to ask, “What makes you cry, O Abu Hurayrah?” He said, “I have not stopped inviting my mother to Islam but she continues to reject it. Today, I invited her again and heard from her painful words about you. Pray that Allah opens the heart of Abu Hurayra’s mother to Islam.” The Prophet ﷺ obliged and said, “O Allah, guide the mother of Abu Hurayra.” Abu Hurayra narrates: I left hopeful from the prayer of the Prophet ﷺ and returned home to find the door partially open and could hear water splashing inside. When my mother heard my footsteps, she said, “Stay where you are, O Abu Hurayra.” After putting on her clothes, she instructed me to enter. When I entered, she said, “I testify that none is worthy of worship but Allah, and I testify that Muhammad is His servant and messenger.” I returned to the Prophet ﷺ while weeping with joy, just as an hour earlier I had gone weeping in sadness, and said, “Great news, O Messenger of Allah! Allah has answered your prayer and guided the mother of Abu Hurayra to Islam.” He praised Allah and thanked Him, and then I said, “O Messenger of Allah, pray that Allah make my mother and I beloved to His believing slaves, and make them beloved to us.” He ﷺ obliged, and there has not been a believing slave who hears of me, or sees me, except that he loves me.



name: _____

date: _____

Discussion questions

1 Summarize the incident of the answered prayers. What makes it a *mu'jiza* in the true sense of the word?

2 What effect do you think this incident had on the people who witnessed it?

3 What are your thoughts after reading about this incident? Do you feel that it lends support to Muhammad's claim to prophethood?