

# Mosques

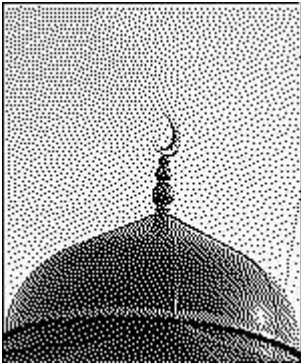


# UNIT 5

The city of Byzantium (Constantinople, modern Istanbul) was dedicated to the pagan Diana, goddess of the hunt, and the crescent moon was the symbol of Diana. In 330 CE, Constantine rededicated the city to the virgin Mary, whose star symbol was added to the previous crescent. When the Turks took possession of Constantinople, they found lots of crescent flags and adopted it as a symbol of good omen.

Since 'the star and crescent' started to be hoisted up as the symbol of Muslims we've never been able to regain the greatness that we had before we adopted it.

**19. Write a suitable adjective to finish these sentences. e.g. which, whose etc.**



- a. \_\_\_\_\_ star was it?
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ pagan Goddess was represented by a crescent moon?
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ did the Muslim's come to take these pagan symbols as their own?
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ do Muslims continue to use the crescent and star as their symbol?

The earliest such flag or banner used by the Prophet was a sable (black) curtain which hung in the chamber of his wife, Ayesha (may Allah be pleased with her). In the center, the Prophet SAW attached a white cloth which was a turban that he captured from the city of Boreide. On it was written the inscription, Nasr um min Allah, which meant "the help of Allah". Most appropriate. One can see how powerful a symbol this was to be used as a banner or flag.

**20. Use the correct verb to agree with each noun subject.**

- a. The earliest flag of the Muslims \_\_\_\_\_ black and white (was / were).

- b. The Turkish flag \_\_\_\_\_ a star and crescent on a field of 'Ottoman' red (are / is).
- c. On the Pakistani flag, the crescent \_\_\_\_\_ for progress and the star for enlightenment (are / is).
- d. The Saudi regime of Arabia \_\_\_\_\_ a green flag with the Shahadah written in white (has / have).

**21. Every country has an abbreviation with the places they represent.**

New Zealand is NZ. What is the abbreviation for the country you live in?

\_\_\_\_\_.