

## Australian Muslims pray for rain during Eid

25th August, 2018



Tens of thousands of Muslims in Australia have gathered to pray for rain for Australia's drought-afflicted farmers. The prayers were incorporated into the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha.

Dozens of mosques included prayers for rain in their celebrations for the holy celebration. Eid al-Adha is one of Islam's holiest festivals. It is often referred to as the Festival of Sacrifice and is celebrated by sharing food with family, neighbours, as well as the poor and needy. The biggest gathering was at Sydney's Lakemba Mosque, which was attended by over 30,000 Muslims. An imam of the mosque said: "God will send down rainfall. It is our duty to help Australians, especially the farmers."

Australia is currently undergoing its most devastating drought in living memory. The whole of New South Wales, the country's most populous state, is in drought. A state farmers' spokeswoman, Kathleen Curry, told the ABC news agency how much farmers appreciated the support and thoughts of the Muslim community. She said: "I think it really touched the heart of our farmers during this period." She added: "Every little bit helps." Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull recently committed \$1.3 billion in relief funds for farmers to safeguard their livelihoods. The disturbing thing is that it is currently winter in Australia and the hot summer weather is looming and threatening to worsen the situation.

Sources: [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au) / [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) / [sbs.com](http://sbs.com)

## Writing

Does the power of prayer work? What have you prayed for?

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

thousands / pray / rain / festival / celebration / sacrifice / neighbours / mosque / duty / currently / devastating / drought / community / farmers / livelihoods / winter / hot

## True / False

- a) One hundred thousand Muslims prayed for rain. T / F
- b) Ten different mosques in Australia took part in the prayers. T / F
- c) The article said Muslims share food with the needy during Eid. T / F
- d) More than 30,000 Muslims prayed at one temple in Sydney. T / F
- e) The article said Australia's drought is the worst in the country's history. T / F
- f) New South Wales farmers were appreciative of the Muslims' prayers. T / F
- g) Australia has allocated \$1.3 billion in aid for farmers. T / F
- h) The article suggested the drought situation will be over soon. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>gathered</b>     | a. valued         |
| 2. <b>afflicted</b>    | b. included       |
| 3. <b>incorporated</b> | c. presently      |
| 4. <b>duty</b>         | d. catastrophic   |
| 5. <b>especially</b>   | e. on the horizon |
| 6. <b>currently</b>    | f. congregated    |
| 7. <b>devastating</b>  | g. aid            |
| 8. <b>appreciated</b>  | h. particularly   |
| 9. <b>relief</b>       | i. troubled       |
| 10. <b>looming</b>     | j. obligation     |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the Muslim festival of Eid?
- b) What do you think of prayer?
- c) Why do you think drought is affecting Australia so much?
- d) What does drought do for a country?
- e) What holy festivals do you celebrate?
- f) What sacrifices in life do you make?
- g) What do you do to help the poor and needy?
- h) How great is it tens of thousands of Muslims are praying for rain?

## Phrase Match

- |                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. prayers were incorporated into the | a. living memory       |
| 2. one of Islam's holiest             | b. bit helps           |
| 3. as well as the poor                | c. the mosque          |
| 4. An imam of                         | d. of our farmers      |
| 5. It is our duty                     | e. populous state      |
| 6. its most devastating drought in    | f. Muslim festival     |
| 7. the country's most                 | g. and needy           |
| 8. it really touched the heart        | h. is looming          |
| 9. Every little                       | i. to help Australians |
| 10. the hot summer weather            | j. festivals           |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about the drought in Australia?
- Have any of your prayers ever been answered?
- What is the worst weather that you have experienced?
- Who in the world needs our prayers?
- What are the difficulties of being a farmer?
- What more can Australia's government do in the drought?
- What questions would you like to ask Australian farmers?

## Spelling

- Australia's gdtohru-afflicted farmers
- rocrtnoadeip into the Muslim festival
- one of Islam's olishte festivals
- ecbtraelde by sharing food
- ttdenead by over 30,000 Muslims
- elieycapsl the farmers
- its most ivdaasntgte
- the country's most upupsool state
- farmers pterdapcae the support
- the Muslim ontymimuc
- safeguard their esidhlviolo
- threatening to enwors the situation

### Answers – Synonym Match

|      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. f | 2. i | 3. b | 4. j | 5. h  |
| 6. c | 7. d | 8. a | 9. g | 10. e |

## Role Play

### Role A – Droughts

You think droughts are the worst natural disasters. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disasters aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): earthquakes, floods or typhoons.

### Role B – Earthquakes

You think earthquakes are the worst natural disasters. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disasters aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): droughts, floods or typhoons.

### Role C – Floods

You think floods are the worst natural disasters. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disasters aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): earthquakes, droughts or typhoons.

### Role D – Typhoons

You think typhoons are the worst natural disasters. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their disasters aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): earthquakes, floods or droughts.

## Speaking – Natural disasters

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst natural disasters at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| • avalanche | • drought    |
| • typhoon   | • earthquake |
| • landslide | • wildfire   |
| • volcano   | • flood      |

### Answers – True False

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | F | c | T | d | T | e | F | f | T | g | T | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.