



Seven New Kittens

Seven New Kittens is a traditional Muslim story which encourages children to reflect on the beauty and wonder of new life and the natural world.



Children delight in anticipating and counting the arrival of the seven kittens as they appear on the pages as the story unfolds.

The big book and cross-curricular resource pack provides a wide range of activities which directly supports Language, Literacy and Communication, Mathematical development, Knowledge and Understanding of the World, and Personal and Social Development, Well-being and Cultural Diversity.

There is lots of opportunity for counting and colour matching and the story particularly lends itself to a topic on new life and baby animals.

The book is also produced in standard size format, providing the additional opportunity for children to handle the book easily and enjoy the story on an individual basis.



Cross-Curricular Topic Web based on the 2012 EYFS plus Religious Education

Expressive Arts and Design

Being imaginative

- Create a role play area from the story

NB Children should not role play the Prophet Muhammad.

Media and Materials

- Enhance the craft area with a variety of material to make cats and kittens pictures, collages, puppet etc.

Religious Education

- Read the book Seven New Kittens. Before completing the story, ask the children what they think Muhammad (*pbuh*) might do about the kittens on his cloak.
- Encourage the children think about what type of person the prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) showed he was in what he did for the kittens (kind and caring towards animals).
- Encourage the children to think about Muslim beliefs about the natural world (as clearly and simply illustrated by the story)
- Encourage children to think about their own beliefs and attitudes about and towards the natural world
- Talk about the needs of animals and how we can help them



Physical

Personal, Social and Emotional

Develop an awareness of different cultures and the

- Talk about the choices available to Muhammad (*pbuh*) in the story
- Encourage children to think about what they would have done with the kittens
- Ask questions in relation to the story about why cats and kittens should be treated with respect and think about why some people might be unkind to animals
- Demonstrate care and respect for their own and classroom pets
- Communicate about what is good and bad, right and wrong, fair and unfair, caring and inconsiderate in the story and in the work of the Cat's Protection Society

Context for Learning / Theme:

Seven New Kittens big book and resource pack By Gill Vaisey

Mathematical

- Play 'Collect the Kittens' large board game with counters and dice
- Play 'Match the Kittens Game' in small groups
- Sequence the colours and numbers of the kittens

Communication and Language

- Listen to and enjoy the story Seven New Kittens
- Discuss the story and its message
- Respond to the story with their own views and opinions about the action of Muhammad (*pbuh*).
- Retell the story with the storyboard cards
- Sequence the colours and numbers of the kittens



Literacy

- Read and write words for the kittens and their colours as featured in the book

Understanding the World

The World

- Use books, DVDs, pictures and the outdoors to identify signs of spring
- Explore the names of mother and baby animals
- Encourage children to think about how we might care for baby animals
- Find out about the work of the Cat's Protection Society

People and Communities

- Encourage the children to think about Muslim beliefs about the natural world (as clearly and simply illustrated by the story)
- Encourage children to think about their own beliefs and attitudes about and towards the natural world

Activity Suggestions for Foundation Stage focussing on People and Communities and Religious Education

Theme: Awe and Wonder of New Life Key Resource: Seven New Kittens

**RE Focus: Appreciate and experience the awe and wonder of new life and consider the importance of valuing it.
Become familiar with the message of a traditional Muslim story about the natural world.**

Activities relate to the book and resource pack: **Seven New Kittens** by Gill Vaisey, *Books @ Press*. (Tel: 01594 516490)

Suggested Activities	RE and Early Learning Goals (2012)
<p>Explore elements of the spring season – the weather, growth of plants and bulbs, new life: buds and spring blossom, baby animals.</p>	<p><u>Understanding The World:</u> The world know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes. <u>RE:</u> Explore the awe, wonder, mystery and spirituality of the world in which we live.</p>
<p>Read the book <i>Seven New Kittens</i>. Talk about what Mohammad (<i>pbuh</i>) might do about the kittens. Talk about what type of person Mohammad (<i>pbuh</i>) showed he was in what he did for the kittens (kind and caring towards animals). Ask the pupils for their ideas about caring for animals.</p>	<p><u>Communication and Language:</u> listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. <u>Understanding the World: People and Communities</u> They know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions. <u>RE:</u> Explore religious stories and their messages about the natural world. Enjoy a range of stories and accounts from different faith traditions and cultures. Appreciate the messages that some of these stories may convey. Appreciate the importance of some of these stories to certain people. Explore the way in which and reasons why they and others show care, concern and respect for living things, the environment and the natural world. Develop a growing interest in the world around them and develop understanding and responsibility for living things and the environment. Understand the relationship between feelings, beliefs and actions. Express their own opinions and feelings, and make decisions while considering the viewpoints of others. Think creatively and imaginatively about important human and religious questions. Think about and ask questions about themselves and living things and listen to others' answers.</p>
<p>Use the story board cards for the pupils to sequence the story, numbers and colours of kittens.</p>	<p><u>Mathematics Numbers:</u> children count reliably with numbers from 1 to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number.</p>

	<p><u>Speaking:</u> children express themselves effectively. They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events. They use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future.</p>
<p>In small groups, sort, match and sequence corresponding coloured numbers and kittens.</p>	<p><u>Mathematics Numbers:</u> children count reliably with numbers from 1 to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number.</p> <p><u>Speaking:</u> children express themselves effectively. They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events. They use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future.</p> <p><u>Understanding The World: The world</u> know about similarities and differences in relation to objects, and living things. They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.</p>
<p>In small groups, use the ‘Collect The Kittens’ game cards to encourage matching and social skills.</p>	<p><u>Personal, Social and Emotional: Self-confidence and self-awareness:</u> children are confident to try new activities, and say why they like some activities more than others. They are confident to speak in a familiar group, will talk about their ideas, and will choose the resources they need for their chosen activities. They say when they do or don’t need help.</p> <p><u>Managing feelings and behaviour:</u> They work as part of a group or class, and understand and follow the rules.</p> <p><u>Making relationships:</u> children play co-operatively, taking turns with others. They take account of one another’s ideas about how to organise their activity. They show sensitivity to others’ needs and feelings, and form positive relationships with adults and other children.</p>
<p>More able pupils can play the large kitten board game using dice and counters.</p>	<p><u>Personal, Social and Emotional: Self-confidence and self-awareness:</u> children are confident to try new activities, and say why they like some activities more than others.</p> <p><u>Managing feelings and behaviour:</u> They work as part of a group or class, and understand and follow the rules.</p> <p><u>Making relationships:</u> children play co-operatively, taking turns with others. They take account of one another’s ideas about how to organise their activity.</p> <p><u>Mathematics Numbers:</u> children count reliably with numbers from 1 to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number.</p> <p>Using quantities and objects, they add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer.</p>
<p>Explore the names of other baby animals, starting with cat and kittens and think about how we might help care for them.</p>	<p><u>Understanding The World: The world</u> know about similarities and differences in relation to objects, and living things. They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.</p> <p><u>RE:</u> Develop a growing interest in the world around them and develop understanding and responsibility for living things and the environment.</p> <p>Explore the awe, wonder, mystery and spirituality of the world in which we live.</p>
<p>Make kitten collages and pictures using various different colours and types of</p>	<p><u>Expressive arts and design:</u> experiment with colour, design, texture, form and function.</p>

<p>fur.</p> <p>Provide materials and props that children might use to create a play area based on the book. Include a red cloak, seven kittens and mother cat, a palm tree, a flannel board for the numbers and storyboard cards.</p> <p>NB Children should not role play the Prophet Muhammad.</p>	<p><u>Expressive arts and design:</u> They represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role-play and stories.</p> <p><u>Speaking:</u> children express themselves effectively.</p> <p>They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events. They use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future.</p> <p><u>RE:</u> Show curiosity and develop positive attitudes to new experiences when learning about people from religions and cultures.</p>
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