

A note for the parent: Your child might need your help to get ready for the Sirah Competition. Please review together the following guideline so your child gets ready for it.

"And indeed, you (Muhammad) are on an exalted standard of character."

(Quran, 68:4)

"And We have sent you (Muhammad) except as a mercy for all the worlds."

(Quran, 21:107)

The Life of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ¹

- Our beloved prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born in the month of Rabi' al-awwal (the 3rd month in the Islamic Calendar) in the year 570 CE in the city of Makkah, home of the Kaba in western Arabia. The year of Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ birth is known as the Year of the Elephant, which relates to the story of Abraha's army that went to destroy the Kaba (see Sura Al-Fil in the Quran). Makkah was Arabia's most important pilgrimage center.
- The Last and Final prophet was born into a noble family - the Banu Hashim, from the tribe of Quraysh. He was the first and only son of Abdullah and Amina. The name 'Muhammad' means "the praised one."
- Muhammad's ﷺ father died before his birth and Muhammad ﷺ was raised by his mother Amina and his grandfather Abd al-Muttalib, who in keeping with Makkah tradition entrusted him at an early age to a wet nurse named Halima who became his foster mother. Muhammad grew up with the Bedouin family in the nearby desert, as the desert life was considered healthier for infants, while learning pure Arabic. The family of Halima and the whole village were very blessed with the coming of Muhammad. He lived with them for 4 years.
- When he was six, Amina wanted her son to get to know her family who lived in Yathrib (later would be known as Madinah). They went there, but on the way back, Amina fell ill and died. Baraka, who had traveled with them as Amina's servant, took the child back to Makkah. His grandfather, Abd al-Muttalib, took him into his care. He was constantly to show deep love for his grandson. However, he died two years later. Muhammad's uncle, Abu Talib, would become his guardian.
- Growing up Muhammad ﷺ became a shepherd to earn his living. He sometimes traveled with Abu Talib, who was a merchant, accompanying caravans to trade centers. As a young man, Muhammad ﷺ enjoyed an esteemed reputation, being known throughout the city as 'the truthful (As-Sadiq) and trustworthy (al-Amin).'
- In his early twenties, Muhammad ﷺ entered the service of a wealthy Makkah merchant, a widow named Khadijah. Muhammad ﷺ carried her goods to the north and returned with a profit. Impressed by Muhammad's ﷺ honesty and character, Khadijah eventually proposed marriage. They were wed in about 595 CE. He was twenty-five.

Muhammad ﷺ Receives Revelation

- At the age of forty, in the month of Ramadan in the year 610 CE, while retreating to Cave Hira, the Angel Jibril suddenly appeared to him and ordered: "Read!" Muhammad ﷺ answered: "I cannot read!" The angel held him so tightly and again ordered: "Read!" Muhammad ﷺ repeated, "I cannot read!" The angel held him tightly again, almost choking him, and repeated the order for the third time "Read!" Muhammad ﷺ answered the same. The angel maintained the hold, recited: "read in the name of your Lord (Rabb), who created mankind from a clot of blood. Read, and your Lord is most bountiful, He who taught by means of the pen, taught mankind what they did not know." (Sura al-Alaq, verse 1-5). The Quranic word for "read" is "IQRA"

¹ Whenever we say, hear, or read prophet Muhammad's name we should say: Salla Allahu alayhi wa salam (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

- This was the first revelation or Wahi, the beginning of the revelation of the Quran from Allah to his Last and Final Prophet. This was the start of Muhammad's ﷺ mission as Rasulullah. Receiving wahi through an angel was a strange experience for Muhammad ﷺ. He returned home to Khadijah in great distress and said, "Cover me! Cover me!" Khadijah wrapped him in a cloak and asked what the matter was. Muhammad ﷺ explained what had happened. Khadijah comforted him saying, "You have nothing to fear. Allah will not let you suffer any humiliation, because you are kind to your people, you speak the truth, you help those in need, you are generous to your guests, and you support every just cause." Khadijah was the first person, as well as the first woman to embrace the message of Islam.
- Some of the first Muslims are Ali ibn Abu Talib, who was the young cousin in his charge, Zayd his adopted son, his lifelong friend Abu Bakr. The number of Muslims grew slowly. Tradition reports that during the first three years only 30 to 40 Quraysh became Muslims. They would meet with the prophet and learn the basics of Islam while new Revelations kept arriving. This was the first community of believers, comprised of men and women of all clans and all social status.
- People who became Muslims during the Prophet's lifetime and saw him are called the Sahaba (the companions). They received Islam directly from him. They struggled with him for the cause of Islam.
- Upon the completion of the third year of prophethood, Muhammad ﷺ received a Revelation enjoining him to call the Quraysh publicly to Islam (inviting them to worship God alone), but most people became angry and hostile to him. In the next decade, Muhammad and his followers were first belittled and ridiculed by the Makkans, then persecuted and physically attacked for departing from traditional Makkah's tribal ways (worship of the idols). His uncle, Abu Lahab, and his wife were very hostile towards the prophet.
- **Isra & Miraj:** The journey to meet Allah occurred on the 27th of Rajab in the tenth year of prophethood. Angel Jibril accompanied the prophet on the night journey (al-Isra); they rode on the animal called al-Buraq. First, they traveled toward Jerusalem, Masjid al-Aqsa, where he met previous prophets and led them on prayer. Then, the Prophet was raised with the angel Jibril beyond space and time (Miraj). On his way, rising through the seven heavens, he met various prophets. At last he reached to a place above the heavens, Sidrat al-Muntaha, where the prophet received the injunction of the five daily prayers.

Life in Madinah

- Eventually, in the year 622 CE Muhammad ﷺ and his followers left Makkah and traveled to Yathrib, which soon became known as Madinah, the City of the Prophet. Here Muslims were finally able to practice Islam openly since most of the people of the city embraced Islam and accepted Muhammad ﷺ as their leader. The migration of the Muslim community from Makkah to Madinah is known as Hijra and is considered an important date in Muslim History. In fact, it marks the beginning of the Islamic HURI calendar.
- Madinah had a pluralist society; there was religious as well as tribal diversity. Muhammad ﷺ remained here for the rest of his life (10 years), building the first Muslim community.
- **Muhammad's ﷺ Final Years** - In March 632, 10th Hijri, he returned to Makkah one last time to perform a pilgrimage, also known as Farewell Pilgrimage, and tens of thousands of Muslims joined him. After the pilgrimage, he returned to Madinah. Three months later on June 8, 632, 12 Rabi-ul-awwal, 11th Hijri he died there, after a brief illness. He is buried in the mosque in Madinah. After his death, Islam began to spread to neighboring areas and eventually to much of the world.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

A great thing happened in the year 571 CE (Christian Era). In that year Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was born in Makkah a city in Saudi Arabia, in the Islamic month of Rabi-ul-awwal.

While still a young boy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) had a number of heart breaking shocks. His Father Abdullah died even before Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was born. His mother Amina died when Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was only six years old.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was then looked after by his grandfather Abdul-Muttalib. But Abdul-Muttalib also died when Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was only eight years old. From then on one of his uncles, Abu Talib looked after him.

Muhammad (SAW) grew up to be a very good boy with fine nature that made him very popular among relatives and friends. He was very considerate and thoughtful.

When he was only a boy, Muhammad (SAW) worked as a shepherd. While he tended the sheep he thought about the world around him, and about the people of Makkah where he lived.

Muhammad (SAW) grew up to be a fine man who was respected by the people of Makkah. They called him Trustworthy (Al-Amin in Arabic) and Truthful (As-Sadiq in Arabic). When he was 25 he married a fine lady called Khadijah and they were happy together.

The people of Makkah at that time had all sort of bad habits. They used to quarrel a lot. They used to fight each other often and cause bloodshed. Muhammad (SAW) wondered why there should be so much bloodshed among his own people. He knew they were brave and courageous. It seemed a pity they did all things Allah (SWT) disliked.

They forgot Allah(SWT) and started to worship idols instead.

In his heart Muhammad (SAW) felt sorry for them. He thought hard about how to make the people of Makkah give up their bad habits and fighting. He wanted them to be good.

When he was older Muhammad (SAW) used to go to Mount Nur, not far from Makkah, where he would sit in a cave called Hira. There he could be alone. He would think deeply in the quietness about things around him and the condition of his people. One day when he was in the cave the Angel Jibrail came to him. The Angel told Muhammad (SAW) to read. Muhammad (SAW) replied I cannot read. The angel squeezed him and told him again to read. Muhammad (SAW) said again, "But I am not a reader." The angel squeezed him harder and told him once more to read. Muhammad (SAW) was squeezed a third time, still harder. This time when the Angel released him, he said to Muhammad (SAW):

"Read in the name of your Lord who created!"

Muhammad (SAW) repeated the words after the Angel. He (SAW) felt as if the words were printed on his heart.

This was the beginning of Revelation. Revelation was how Muhammad (SAW) was given the message from Allah (SWT) that he (SAW) was to be a prophet from that time onwards. This happened in the year 610 CE (Christian Era). Muhammad (SAW) was then 40 years old.

For the next 2 years Muhammad (SAW) called upon the people to worship Allah (SWT) alone and to give up treating false gods as partners of Allah (SWT). He asked them to give up worshipping idols. Idols were stone statues that could neither move nor talk, and could do nothing for the people who worshipped them.

Most of the people in Makkah did not want to accept the message of Allah (SWT). They tried their best to stop Muhammad (SAW). They played all kinds of tricks on him. Even his followers were harassed and tortured. But Muhammad (SAW) went on preaching the message of Allah (SWT) with rare patience.

The number of his followers continued to increase. This made his enemies furious. They plotted to kill him. Allah (SWT) saved His prophet from their evil plans. He told the prophet through Jibrail to leave Makkah. So, the Prophet (SAW) left Makkah for ^{YATHRIB} is a city 300 miles away to the north of Makkah.

The people of Makkah were hostile and unfriendly to Muhammad (SAW) when he became the Prophet. They treated the prophet badly. But the people of ^{YATHRIB} were friendly and pleasant to the Prophet. They welcomed him and accepted him as their leader. Later on Muhammad (SAW) returned to Makkah as a victorious man. He forgave his enemies. His greatness impressed them so much that most of them became Muslims.

Muhammad (SAW) did his best to see that the Truth wins in the end and falsehood is defeated. He was a very good man. His manners were very pleasing. He could get on with everyone he met. He was a great man.

He loved children very much. Whenever he met children, he talked to them, patted them, and played with them. When he reached ^{YATHRIB}, little boys and girls greeted him along with the adults. The little girls sang a song welcoming him. The prophet was very pleased and the children were happy too, as they had the great man, the prophet amongst them. Everyone who met him said Muhammad (SAW) was a very pleasant and nice person. He was very kind hearted and caring person.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) especially loved to be among children. One day, he was with a group of children, talking to them and playing with them. The children were very happy to be with the prophet who was very kind to them. A man arrived there and watched the children playing and laughing with Muhammad (SAW). The man was looking pale and unhappy. Muhammad (SAW) noticed this and asked the man why he was unhappy. The man said "I have ten children and I have never played with them." The prophet felt sorry for the man. He (SAW) told the man that loving and caring for children was a blessing from Allah (SWT).

On another occasion, it was very cold so a man made a fire to get warm. But nearby there were many ants. The prophet (SAW) saw the fire and the ants. He was disturbed to see the ants in danger. He asked the man to put out the fire. The man did as he was asked and when he looked around he saw the ants. The man knew why the prophet (SAW) wanted him to put out the fire. The prophet (SAW) said to the man, "you will be rewarded by Allah (SWT) for your acts of kindness towards His living creatures.

Muhammad (SAW) asked the stone hearted Makkans to think again, to give up idol worship and return to the worship of Allah (SWT) alone. He had to work very hard to turn the people of Makkah into Muslims. He was able to do so because Allah's help was with him.

Muhammad (SAW) is the last of the prophets and messengers. Allah (SWT) completed His guidance for mankind with Muhammad (SAW).

Muhammad (SAW) the Great leader and the last messenger of Allah (SWT) lived for 63 years. He died in 632 CE. He left us the Quran and his Sunnah (life example) for our guidance.