

# LANGUAGE – WHAT WE SHARE!

NSW Curriculum Document – ACTIVITY by DI DUNLOP

## Common words shared

Each of the words in this list have found their way into the English language from Arabic. The *Qur'an*, Holy book of Islam, is always recited in Arabic as this was the language in which Gabriel spoke to Muhammad and passed onto him the word of God.

Although language is constantly growing and changing, this is not the case with the words of the *Qur'an*. Great effort is made to make sure that the words of the *Qur'an* are just as they were revealed and so the original *Qur'an* has not changed from when it was first recorded.

(a) What is the meaning of each of these words in today's English?

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|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. admiral .....    | 26. emir .....     |
| 2. alchemy .....    | 27. gazelle .....  |
| 3. alcohol .....    | 28. giraffe .....  |
| 4. algebra .....    | 29. guitar .....   |
| 5. algorism .....   | 30. jasmine .....  |
| 6. alkali .....     | 31. lapse .....    |
| 7. almanac .....    | 32. lemon .....    |
| 8. aniseed .....    | 33. magazine ..... |
| 9. apricot .....    | 34. mascara .....  |
| 10. arsenal .....   | 35. mattress ..... |
| 11. artichoke ..... | 36. mecca .....    |
| 12. cable .....     | 37. musk .....     |
| 13. caftan .....    | 38. muslin .....   |
| 14. caliph .....    | 39. nadir .....    |
| 15. caravan .....   | 40. sesame .....   |
| 16. carob .....     | 41. sheikh .....   |
| 17. checkmate ..... | 42. sherbet .....  |
| 18. chemise .....   | 43. sugar .....    |
| 19. cheque .....    | 44. sultan .....   |
| 20. coffee .....    | 45. syrup .....    |
| 21. cotton .....    | 46. taffeta .....  |
| 22. crimson .....   | 47. tambour .....  |
| 23. damask .....    | 48. tariff .....   |
| 24. divan .....     | 49. zenith .....   |
| 25. elixir .....    | 50. zero .....     |

(b) Group the words listed in (a) according to the following categories:  
 food, commerce, science, everyday life, miscellaneous

(c) This is not an exhaustive list. Try to find 10 other words from Arabic that are in common usage today (eg. assassin).

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