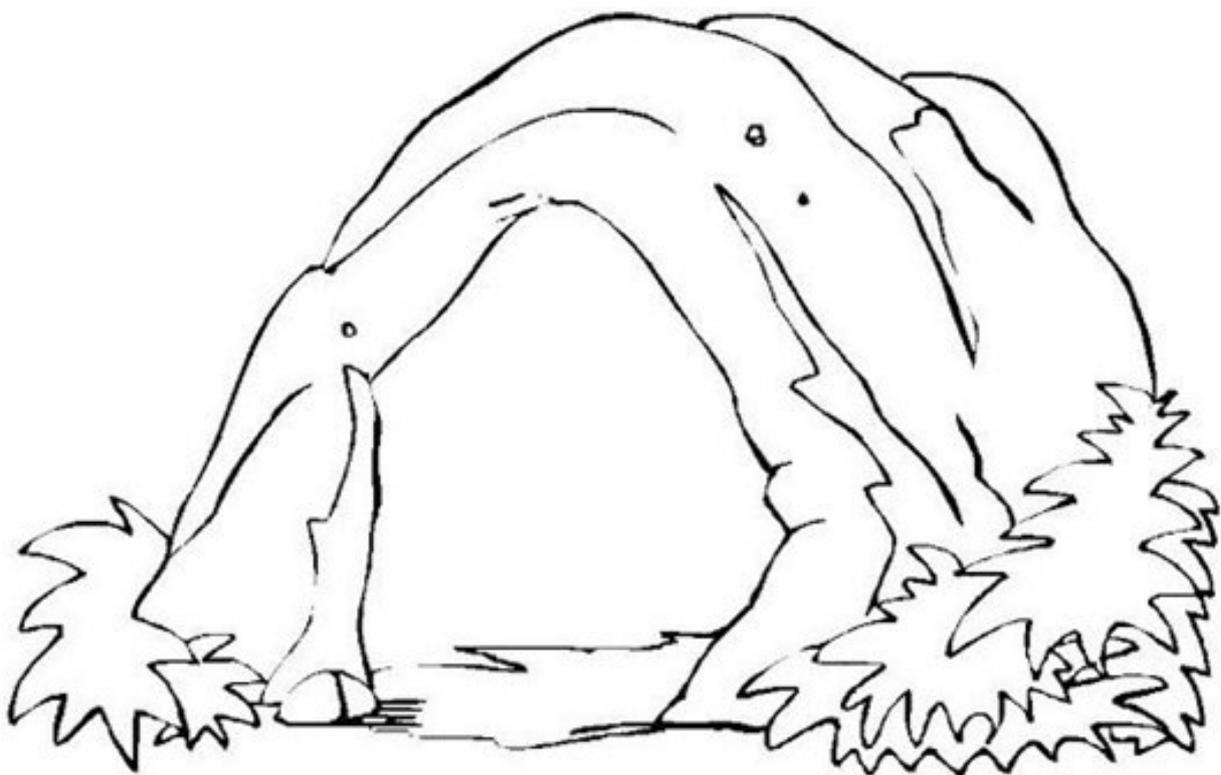


## Sura Kahf

1. What does the word 'kahf' mean and why has this sura been called by this name?

The translation of kahf is 'cave' and the sura is named as such because one of the stories that is mentioned in the sura is that of the people of the cave (*as-hābul kahf*)

**Colour the picture below. Draw in the animal(s) which live in and around a 'kahf'. (Don't forget the Gruffalo!)**



Mammals like bats, foxes and bears; insects like spiders and cockroaches; reptiles like salamanders and frogs; certain birds like swallows and owls may use cave entrances for nesting. Even the Gruffalo lives in a cave!

2. One of the stories that is mentioned in this sura is about the people of the cave. Briefly summarise the story.

A group of youth, accompanied by their dog, were trying to escape cruel King who was terrorising people for their beliefs. They hid inside a cave and prayed to Allah (swt) to help them. They fell asleep in that cave and woke up hundreds of years later!

**How many young individuals escaped to the cave? Give the ayat number.**

We don't know – only Allah (swt) and a select few know. Ayat #22 tells us “[Some] say, ‘The sleepers were three, and their dog made four,’ others say, ‘They were five, and the dog made six’- guessing in the dark- and some say, ‘They were seven, and their dog made eight.’ Say [Prophet], ‘My Lord knows best how many they were.’ Only a few have real knowledge about them, so do not argue, but stick to what is clear, and do not ask any of these people about them”.

**How long did they sleep for? Give the ayat number.**

300 or 309. Ayat #25 tells us “[Some say], ‘The sleepers stayed in their cave for three hundred years,’ some added nine more”.

- 3. What phrase is it recommended to always say when discussing an event that will take place / that you will do in the future – both the Arabic phrase and its English translation? Give the ayat number(s) in this sura where the Quran teaches us this.**

Ayats #23-24 – Inshallah (God willing)

- 4. Scholars tell us that there are four major themes in this sura. Match the correct theme to the correct story.**

- |                              |                                                                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Trial of Faith</b>     | <b>A. Dhul Qarnayn with Yajuj Majuj (Ayats #83-98)</b>             |
| <b>2. Trial of Wealth</b>    | <b>B. The story of the rich and the poor (Ayats #32-44)</b>        |
| <b>3. Trial of Knowledge</b> | <b>C. People of the cave / <i>As-hābul kahf</i> (Ayats # 9-26)</b> |
| <b>4. Trial of Power</b>     | <b>D. Prophet Musa and Khizr (Ayats #60-82)</b>                    |

1) C    2)B    3) D    4)A

- 5. This sura relates just one of the many stories relating to Prophet Musa in the Holy Quran. In ayat #66, to whom is Prophet Musa talking? What is notable about this person as debated among Islamic scholars?**

Khizr; whether he was a prophet of Allah (swt), just a righteous servant of Allah (swt) or an angel.

**What are the three events that occurred in this particular story of Prophet Musa? And in what order did they take place? Give the ayat numbers.**

First, Khizr made a hole in a boat (Ayat #71).

Second, Khizr killed a young boy (Ayat #74).

Third, Khizr repaired a wall (Ayat #77).

**What reasons were given to Prophet Musa by way of explanation for each of the three events that occurred? Give the ayat numbers.**

The boat belonged to some needy people who made their living from the sea and Khizr damaged it because he knew that a king was coming to take it, as he was taking people's boats from them by force. By making a hole in it, he saved it for the owner because the king wouldn't want a boat with a hole as it would likely sink (Ayat #79).

The young boy had parents who were people of faith, and Allah (swt) wanted to spare them the wickedness of this particular boy and instead grant them 'one who is better than him in purity' (Ayats #80-81)

The wall belonged to two young orphans, and there was buried treasure beneath it which also belonged to them. Allah (swt) intended them to dig up their treasure when they grew up (Ayat #82).

**6. What is the parable of the two men (in ayats #32-46) and why do you think one lost his garden? Why is this story important – what can we learn from it?**

It is a story of two friends, one of whom is rich while the other one is not. However, the rich man became boastful and proud. The other man then reminds his friend of the power of Allah (swt) and that it is He who has control over all things. The rich man's was destroyed and he therefore lost all his wealth.

This story is important because it warns us of the dangers of enjoying the good things of this world, without gratitude to Allah (swt), while neglecting the Hereafter. We should not be like the rich man and take our blessings from Allah (swt) for granted; we should thank Him. We should remember everything we have is from Allah (swt) and that what we have today is not guaranteed for us tomorrow.

**7. Dhul Qarnayn made a barrier. From what material was the barrier made? Give the ayat number.**

Ayat #96 – Iron

**8. Which two people mentioned in this sura feature in the annual Lord Mayor's Show in the City of London?**

Gog and Magog (Yajuj and Majuj). Visit: <https://lordmayorsshow.london/history/gog-and-magog>



Lord Mayor's Show 2019

9. Which angel did not bow down to Prophet Adam when Allah (swt) commanded it and why? Give the ayat number.

Ayat #50 – Iblis (Shaytaan) because he believed that he was better than Prophet Adam since he was created from fire and Prophet Adam was created from clay.

10. Read ayats #30 and #49 of this sura. Write down a list of your good and bad actions today. Which column is longer? Think about all good actions that you are going to do tomorrow.

**Bonus: Why don't you try to build a fort using pillows and bedsheets to get an idea of what it would be like to be inside a cave...!**

