

Sura Nuh

- 1. Although this sura is named after Prophet Nuh, it does not contain details of his full story. Why do you think that is?**

Because the Holy Quran is a book of guidance and not merely a historical record. Its purpose in sharing the prophets' stories is for us to learn lessons from them. "All that We recount unto thee of the stories of the messengers is that whereby We make firm thine heart. And herein there has come unto thee the truth, and an exhortation and a reminder for the believers" (11:120).

- 2. The Holy Quran names some of the idols the people worshipped in the time of Prophet Nuh. What were their names and in which ayat of this sura are they mentioned?**

Ayat #23 – Wadd, Suwa', Yaghuth, Ya'uq and Nasr

- 3. For what purpose was Prophet Nuh sent by Allah (swt) as stated in the very beginning of this sura? In ayat #7 of this sura, what three things do the people do in response?**

Ayat #1 – Prophet Nuh was sent by Allah (swt) as a warner. But whenever he would try to call the people they would put their fingers in their ears (averse to hearing God's message), hide under their garments (refuse to see God's signs) and remain arrogant (implies their hearts are closed). In a Quranic context, hearing, sight and hearts are the three faculties that are either open or closed to revelation (The Study Quran by Seyyed Hossein Nasr)

- 4. What is the Holy Quran telling us in ayats #8-9 of this sura? How does this relate to Prophet Muhammad (saw)?**

Prophet Nuh attempted to guide his people in many different ways, but they remained defiant. Many scholars take this to mean that Prophet Nuh became ever more emphatic, first calling them in private, then openly, and then combining the two – a pattern also followed by Prophet Muhammad who, according to most accounts, did not preach publicly until three years after receiving the first revelation (The Study Quran by Seyyed Hossein Nasr)

- 5. What was the punishment Allah (swt) sent down on the people? What does ayat #26 imply about this punishment?**

A great flood. All the disbelievers on the earth at that time, who did not heed Prophet Nuh's warnings and guidance, were drowned. It can be argued therefore, that Prophet Nuh, like Prophet Muhammad, was sent as a messenger to the entire world, rather than to only a specific people

6. There is no direct mention of it in this sura, but in which way does Allah (swt) save Prophet Nuh and the believers from His punishment? If you are unfamiliar with the story of Prophet Nuh you can refer to sura Hud, ayats #36-44.

Allah (swt) tells Prophet Nuh to build an Ark, a great ship. After it was completed, he was to take his family and the believers on board as well as two of every creature so that when the rains came, they would be safe. After the floods, the Ark landed on Mount Judi and they were able to disembark onto dry land once again.

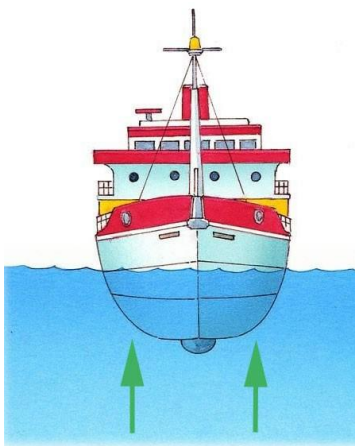
7. Prophet Nuh was asked to take all the animals onto the Ark in pairs. Can you name 10 of the largest animals that would have been on board? Draw them waiting their turn to board the Ark below.



The 10 largest land animals in the world are the African elephant, Asian elephant, white rhino, hippo, gaur, giraffe, walrus, black rhino, crocodile and water buffalo.

Luckily Prophet Nuh didn't need to bring sea animals on board because the blue whale is so big that an African elephant can sit on its tongue!!

8. The ark was a big ship. Briefly explain the science behind how it, and the other boats we use today, float rather than sink? (Hint: use the Archimedes Principle)



As a boat floats in the water, it pushes aside water making space for the boat. This is displacement. The water then pushes back on the sides and bottom of the boat. If a boat weighs less than the maximum volume of water it could ever push aside (displace), it floats.

So, a huge boat will float because, even though it weighs a lot, it displaces a huge amount of water that weighs even more. In fact, boats are designed specifically so that they will displace enough water to assure that they'll float easily.

9. How long did Prophet Nuh's prophethood last, and where is this mentioned in the Holy Quran? (Hint: Sura Ankabut)

950 years (29:14)

10. Give the English translation of ayat #16. What physical aspect of the moon is being mentioned here?

Note there may be slight variations: "And made the moon therein a [reflected] light and made the sun a burning lamp".

The moon does not produce its own light, but rather reflects the light from the sun.

Bonus: Use materials from around the house to build an Ark. Test it out with some toy animals, Lego people, etc to see if it can float. You can use the cut-out on the next page to help you decorate it...

I made mine out of a cereal box! The cardboard got a little wet on the inside but stayed afloat, even with lots of animals!

