

Surah Nahl

1. What creation of Allah (swt) is 'An-Nahl' for which this sura is named? Draw a nahl and see if you can label it with the following body parts: head, body, wings, antennae, eye, leg and sting.



What does the nahl make that is really sweet and yummy?

Honey

2. Name any two types of food and any two types of drink mentioned in this sura. Give the verse number(s).

Food – corn, olives, dates and grapes (ayat #11) meat (ayat #5) fish (ayat #14)

Drink – water, milk and honey (ayats #65-69)

In which ayat of this sura does Allah (swt) talk about the bees making honey and what two things does he tell us about honey?

Ayat #69 – Allah (swt) tells us that honey is of various hues (colours/shades) and that in it is a healing for the people.

3. In which ayat of this sura does Allah (swt) talk about food which is Haraam for us? Which types of food have been mentioned in this ayat?

Ayat #115 – Allah (swt) tells us that the foods which are Haraam for us are animals that die itself, blood, the flesh of swine, and animals which are slaughtered in the name of someone other than Him.

Why do you think it is important to be aware of the food which we put into our bodies?

The food we eat becomes a part of our bodies and has an effect on us. That is why we should consume what is good, healthy and pure.

4. In ayats #5-7 of this sura, Allah (swt) mentions that He has created the cattle, and in them are many advantages. List any three advantages of cattle as stated in this ayat.

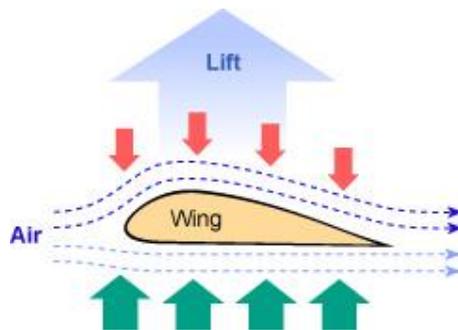
Warmth (from hides for clothing), for eating, as a beauty, carrying heavy loads

5. According to this sura, why are birds a sign for those who believe? Give the ayat number.

Ayat #79 – It is only Allah (swt) who withholds them in the sky

Try this activity from <https://askbiologist.asu.edu/> to better understand how Allah (swt) created birds to fly. *Take a piece of paper. The best type of papers to use are the thin sheets used in magazines. Hold the short edge of the paper up [near] to your mouth using both hands. Blow hard across the top of the paper.*

The paper should lift up...why do you think this is?



The pressure exerted down by fast moving air (red arrows) is less than the pressure exerted up by slow moving air (green arrows).

“It may not be what you would expect, but it is what birds and planes do to lift off the ground and fly. Blowing faster-moving air above the sheet paper lowered the air pressure above the paper. Now the air pressure below the paper is higher and creates lift. Lift does exactly what it sounds like; it lifts objects off the ground when everything is just right” (<https://askbiologist.asu.edu/how-do-birds-fly>) Visit the website to learn more!

**Now go outside and see if you can spot birds flying in the sky. Isn't it beautiful?!
Subhanallah!**

6. “This sura is one of the most important of those in the Quran that point out the spiritual significance of nature” (The Study Quran by Seyyed Hossein Nasr). In that regard, what do you think Allah (swt) is trying to teach us?

“The natural world should be seen as a source of beauty and wonder, not just of material benefits” (The Study Quran by Seyyed Hossein Nasr). Allah (swt) has created many signs around us that we should take notice, ponder and appreciate in order to gain closeness to Him.

List any 10 blessings that Allah (swt) has showered upon us as mentioned in this sura.

The whole surah has approximately 40 blessings, some of them are: He sent down water to drink, out of it plants grow, He has made the day and night, sun and moon, He created cattle (and its advantages), He created horses, mules and donkeys (and their advantages), He made the sea and in it are (fish) to eat, from the sea you can obtain ornaments to wear, He made rivers and roads and landmarks and stars to guide us, He gave us foods such as corn, grapes, dates, pure milk from cattle, honey from the bee, He has given us our sustenance, He has given us spouses, children, grandchildren, shelter, clothing, He gave us hearing, sight and guidance.

As Allah (swt) says in ayat #18: "And were you to count the blessings of God, you could not number them. Truly God is Forgiving, Merciful." Alhumdulillah!

7. Who do the ^{أوتوا العلم} refer to in ayat #27?

It refers to those who are given Divine knowledge i.e. the Holy Prophet (saw) and his thoroughly purified Ahlul Bayt (as)

8. According to ayat #24, what was the response of the disbelievers when posed with questions regarding the guidance Allah (swt) had sent to humankind before?

They answer that these are not Divine revelations, but are just 'stories of the ancients'.

What kind of people does Allah (swt) refer to as those who will be 'losers in the hereafter'? Give the ayat number(s).

Ayat #104 – those who don't believe in the signs of God

Ayats #107-109 – those who deliberately prefer the life of this world over the Hereafter

9. Which ayat in this surah implies that the Holy Prophet (saw) was present in this world from the very beginning and will be here till the end to witness that which has happened and that which is taking place?

Ayat #89 – it says that "...We shall raise up in every people a witness ...and bring you O Muhammad as a witness over these."

Evidence given by a witness can be accepted only when the witness has witnessed the event which is being examined. Every messenger of Allah will give the evidence about the response of the people to whom he was sent to preach the message of Allah (swt), while the Holy Prophet (saw) will be a witness over all the Prophets and messengers of Allah (swt) who will be raised as witnesses over their respective followers.

10. Ayats #11-13 end in a similar fashion as shown below:

إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ {11}

إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ {12}

إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يَذَّكَّرُونَ {13}

What is the English translation of each Arabic phrase?

Remember, there will be slight variations depending on which translation you are using!

Ayat #11 – most surely there is a sign in this for a people who reflect

Ayat #12 – most surely there are signs in this for a people who ponder

Ayat #13 – most surely there is a sign in this for a people who are mindful

Using an Arabic dictionary (or Google translate if you don't have one!), translate the following phrases into English.

يَتَفَكَّرُونَ
يَعْقِلُونَ
يَذَّكَّرُونَ

They think, they understand, they remember