

# DIRECTION

**WITH THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL.**

The Arab navigators studied and used the stars to determine direction.

**Where did they receive the inspiration to do this ?**

They learnt this from the glorious Quraan.

We read in Sura An'am (ch. 6): verse 97:-

"It is He who makes the stars (as beacons) for you, that you may guide yourselves, with their help, through the dark spaces of land and sea: we detail our signs for people who know."

The compass was invented by the Chinese but, it was the early Muslims who had perfected it and made practical use of it by applying the magnetic needle to the problems of navigation.

A compass consists of a free-swinging magnetised needle which always points to the magnetic north pole.

The four main directions are north, south, west and east.

The eight points of the compass are:-

		North		
	North-west		north-east	
West				East
	South-west		south-east	
		South		

Muslims have to pray five times a day facing the Ka'bah.

Then, Muslims from all parts of the world go to Mecca to perform the pilgrimage.

These factors encouraged the early Muslims to find out about direction.

It is true to say that it can be very frustrating to lose physical direction, but it is far worse to lose our moral and spiritual direction!

## **Worksheet**

- 1) What is a Muslim's moral and spiritual compass?
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