

## Sura Shu'ara

1. The first ayat of this sura is has three letters of the Arabic alphabet. Can you circle these letters?

ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر ز س ش  
ص ض ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك ل م ن ه  
و ي

2. What is the meaning of 'shu'ara' and in which ayat is the word first mentioned?

Why do you think the sura has been given this name?

3. What role did 'shu'ara' have in pre-Islamic Arabia?
4. In terms of numbers of ayats, how does Sura Shu'ara compare to other suras in the Holy Quran?

5. This sura gives the biographies of which seven prophets as examples from the past?

Several of these prophets introduce themselves to the people they are meant to guide in a similar fashion. Give the English translation of this introduction.

6. According to this sura, many of the accusations and excuses given by the peoples of the past to the messengers sent to guide them are similar to the accusations and excuses made by the Meccans to Prophet Muhammad (saw). List them below. (Hint: you can refer back to previous quizzes to help you remember some of the issues the Meccans had with the Holy Prophet)

7. According to this sura, how was Prophet Muhammad (saw) inclined to feel about the response he received from the Meccans when he tried to guide them?

8. These verses are repeated throughout this sura, at the end of the story of each of the various prophets cited; what is their English translation?

إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لآيَةً مَّصِدَّةٍ لِّمُؤْمِنِيْنَ  
وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهٗوَ الْعَزِيْزُ الرَّحِيْمُ

9. What key concept is Allah (swt) highlighting for us in ayats #198-199?

What is Allah (swt) highlighting in ayats #208-209 of this sura?

10. What is the concluding message given at the end of this sura?

**Bonus:** A haiku (俳句 *high-koo*) is a short three-line poem that uses sensory language to capture a feeling or image. Haiku poetry was originally developed by Japanese poets. They are often inspired by nature, a moment of beauty, or a poignant experience. Write a haiku about the Holy Month of Ramadhan! Keep in mind the following:

- Haikus follow a strict form: three lines, with a 5-7-5 syllable structure. That means the first line will have five syllables, the second line will have seven syllables, and the last line will have five syllables.
- Haikus are meant to give the reader a brief sense of the subject using the senses. Think about how your subject smells, feels, sounds, tastes, and looks. Describe the subject using your senses so it comes alive for your reader and feels powerful on the page.
- Avoid abstract or vague descriptions. Instead, go for concrete images that are easy for the reader to visualize. Rather than using metaphor or simile, try describing the subject with details that are particular and unique
- Give the haiku immediacy by using the present tense, rather than the past tense. Using the present tense can also make your lines simple and easy to follow.
- A good haiku will have an ending line that is intriguing and leaves the reader hanging. It may leave the reader with a surprising last image or reflect on the previous two lines in a surprising way.