

The Life of Prophet Muhammad — School Project

This project introduces students to the life of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in a clear, respectful, and classroom-friendly way. It includes a short overview, a chronological timeline of major events, a summary of his character and teachings, suggested activities for classwork, and a short bibliography for further reading. Suitable for middle and high school levels.

Introduction

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born in Makkah around 570 CE into the Banu Hashim. Orphaned at a young age, he was raised by his grandfather and then his uncle. Known for his honesty and trustworthiness (Al-Amin), he worked as a merchant and married Khadijah (RA). At age 40 he received the first revelation in the cave of Hira, beginning his mission as the final messenger of Islam. He migrated to Madinah in 622 CE (the Hijrah), established a just community, and passed away in 632 CE.

Timeline (Chronological Events)

- ~570 CE — Birth in Makkah (Banu Hashim); orphaned and raised by Abdul Muttalib then Abu Talib.
- ~595–610 CE — Worked as a merchant; married Khadijah (RA).
- 610 CE — First revelation in the cave of Hira at age 40; began private preaching.
- 610–615 CE — Early converts include Khadijah, Abu Bakr, Ali, and Zayd; growing persecution.
- ~615 CE — Some companions migrate to Abyssinia to seek refuge from persecution.
- 613–619 CE — Public preaching in Makkah, the social boycott, and the Year of Sorrow (loss of Khadijah and Abu Talib).
- ~619 CE — Isra and Mi'raj (night journey and ascension); five daily prayers established.
- 622 CE — Hijrah (migration) to Madinah; start of the Islamic calendar.
- 624–627 CE — Key battles: Badr (624 CE), Uhud (625 CE), and the Trench/Khandaq (627 CE).
- 628 CE — Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, a truce that allowed peaceful spread and diplomacy.

- 630 CE — Conquest of Makkah; Ka'bah purified and a general amnesty declared.
- 632 CE — Farewell Pilgrimage and Farewell Sermon; passed away later that year in Madinah.

Character and Key Teachings

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is celebrated for his moral character and leadership. Key qualities include:

- Honesty and trustworthiness (Al-Amin).
- Compassion and mercy toward family, neighbors, and even former enemies.
- Justice and fairness in resolving disputes and governing a diverse community.
- Emphasis on worship and ethics: prayer, charity (zakat), fasting, and good manners.
- Respect for women, care for orphans, and the importance of community solidarity.

Suggested Classroom Activities

1. Create a timeline poster: Students work in groups to create a visual timeline (poster or slide) showing at least 10 events from the timeline with dates and short captions.
2. Five-minute presentation: Each student prepares a 3–5 minute presentation on one event (e.g., Hijrah, Badr, Conquest of Makkah) explaining its significance.
3. Reflective questions and short essay: Prompt students to answer: “Which quality of the Prophet ﷺ do you find most inspiring and why?” (150–250 words).
4. Role-play or skit (optional): Small groups act out a short, respectful scene that illustrates a teaching (for example, an example of forgiveness after the Conquest of Makkah).

Assessment Rubric (Simple)

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Accuracy of historical	All dates and facts accurate; clear	Minor inaccuracies but mostly	Some inaccuracies; basic	Multiple inaccuracies or

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
facts	understanding	accurate	understanding	misunderstanding
Clarity and organization	Very clear, well organized, easy to follow	Generally clear with minor gaps	Somewhat disorganized	Unclear and disorganized
Presentation and teamwork	Engaging and collaborative	Good effort and cooperation	Some participation issues	Little participation or teamwork
Reflection and insight	Thoughtful, well supported	Reasonable insight	Basic reflection	Minimal or no reflection

Reflective Questions for Class Discussion

- Which event in the Prophet's life do you think had the greatest impact on the spread of Islam and why?
- How did the Prophet's character influence his leadership and the early Muslim community?
- What lessons from his life could be applied to building a fair and caring community today?

Short Bibliography (Student-Friendly)

- The Qur'an — selected passages relevant to the Prophet's life (e.g., Surah Al-Anbiya, Surah Al-Hijr).
- A concise Seerah book suitable for students, for example: "The Sealed Nectar (Ar-Rahiq Al-Makhtum)" — an accessible biography (check editions for student level).
- Selected Hadith collections or abridged hadith books for young readers — look for reputable translations and explanatory notes.
- Classroom handouts from trusted educational centers or local libraries that provide age-appropriate Seerah summaries.

Teacher Notes and Sensitivities

When teaching about the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, present the material respectfully and factually. Be mindful of students' backgrounds and avoid political or sectarian debates. Emphasize ethical lessons and encourage respectful questions. Use age-appropriate language and source materials.

If you would like, I can convert this write-up into a printable one-page handout, a PowerPoint slide deck for the classroom, or a Word document for easy printing.