The Muslim West | Mosques: A Place for Prayer

The minaret

The call to prayer is performed by the muezzin from the minaret five times a day. It can be heard throughout the town, pervading it and marking the rhythms of life. The first call is at dawn, with subsequent calls at midday, mid-afternoon, sunset and the first hour of the night. Each call includes praises to God and Muhammad his prophet, and invites the faithful to prayers.



Name:
Kutubiya Mosque

Dynasty:
Hegira 6th century / AD 12th century Almohad

Details:
Marrakesh, Morocco

Justification:
There are many different types of minaret. In the Muslim West, they are square-plan structures with decorated facades. The interior consists of superposed vaulted rooms and a staircase leading to the top, from where the muezzin calls the faithful to prayer.



Name:
Giralda

Dynasty:
Hegira 580–94 / AD 1184–98 Almohad

Details:
Seville, Spain

Justification:
The Giralda, the minaret of the old Great Mosque of Seville.



Name:
Commemorative tablet

Dynasty:
Hegira 433–61 / AD 1042–69; probably c. AH 444 / AD 1052 Abbadid. From the reign of al-Mutadid

Details:
Moura Municipal Museum
Moura, Beja, Portugal

Justification:
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Name:
Planispheric astrolabe

Dynasty:
Hegira 614 / AD 1217–18 Almohad

Details:

Batha Museum
Fez, Morocco

Justification:
In the past, muezzins used an astrolabe to determine the times of prayers.