

# *Exploring Why* **Water**



**Extended Version**

*Exploring Why*

# Water

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**Bear Lands Publishing**

## About Aled and Siân

Aled and Siân love exploring the places where they live and the places they go to visit. They enjoy playing 'I Spy' to help them get to know these places better. In the *Exploring Why* series Aled and Siân are curious to find out why some of the things around them are important to their Christian, Jewish and Muslim friends.

The series takes seriously the social significance of religion and is based on extensive research into how children learn about themselves, others and the world in which they live.

To support this storybook series, there is a large range of free downloadable resources for children and teachers available at [hwb.wales.gov.uk/Resources](http://hwb.wales.gov.uk/Resources) and [st-marys-centre.org.uk](http://st-marys-centre.org.uk)

The storybooks and activities are devised for 5- to 7-year-olds, but the downloadable resources make the series relevant for younger and older children too.

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## Titles in the *Exploring Why* series are:

Bread  
Cross  
Light  
Menorah  
Veil  
Water  
Symbols of Faith





Aled and Siân love exploring the places where they live and the places they go to visit. They enjoy playing 'I Spy' to help them get to know these places better. Today, they read a book about water,

and they set out to discover how many different ways of using water they could find and where they could find them.



Aled and Siân smelt the scent of bubble bath and ran towards the bathroom. They stopped to listen to the sound of the bath being filled. Then they poked their heads round the bathroom door and

breathed in the damp warm steam. They gazed at the white bath, which was almost ready for their younger brother.



There in the bath they saw the yellow duck and the boat, the water pistol and the cup, the water wheels and the troughs. "I spy water," shouted Aled. He

pointed to the water in the bath. The water poured out of the taps and splashed and swirled as it entered the bath.

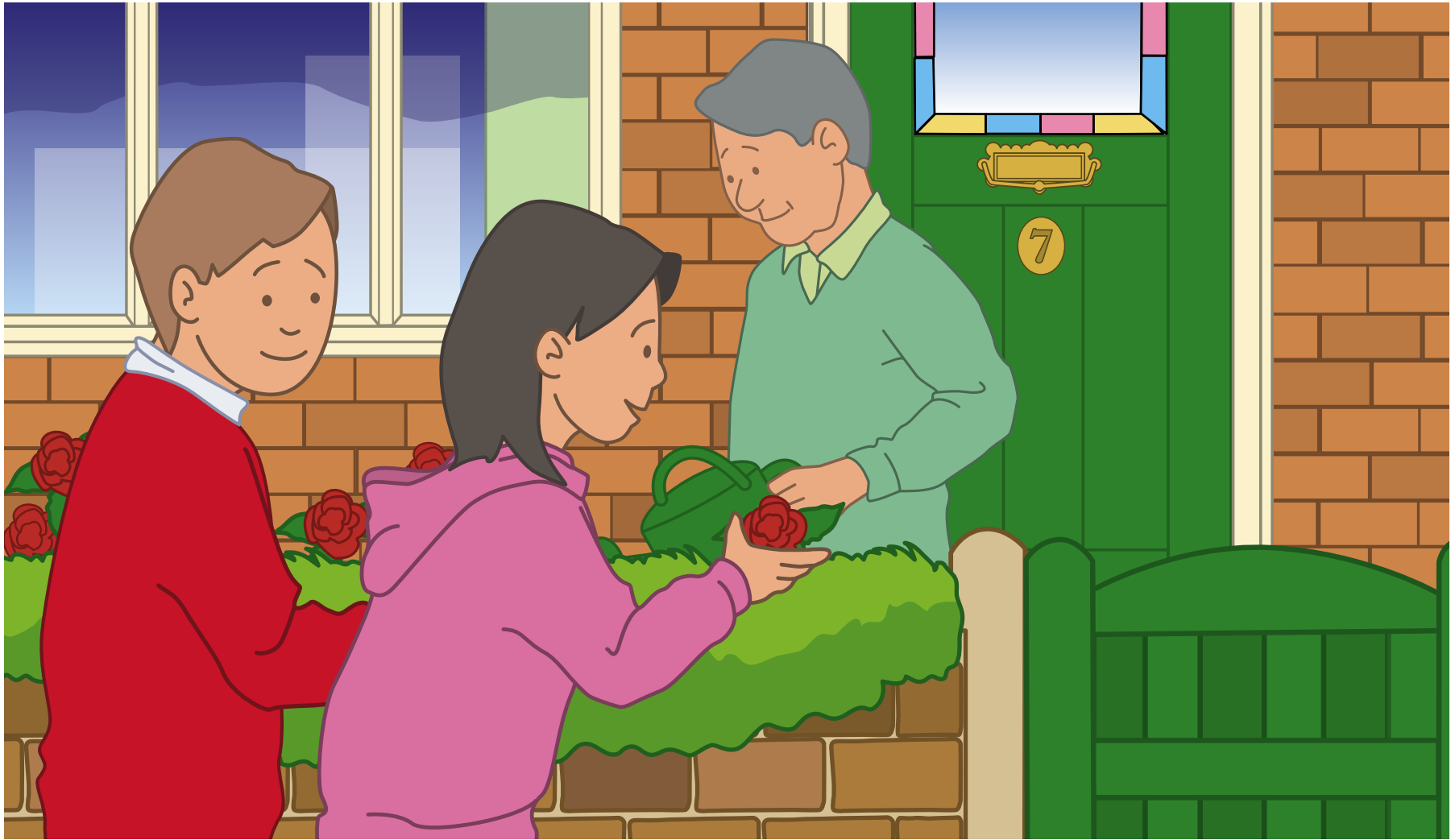


Aled and Siân walked down the stairs to the kitchen. When they opened the door, they heard the sound of bubbling and sloshing. They saw the

kettle boiling on the worktop and the washing machine churning underneath. Aled opened the fridge to see what he could find there.







Leaving their house, Aled and Siân set out along the street. Walking past their neighbour's house, they stopped to look at his garden. They saw the garden gate, shiny with bright green paint. They

smelt the fragrant flowers, bold with delicate red petals. They saw Mr Roberts working hard in his garden.



There in the garden they discovered a spade for digging, a wheelbarrow for carrying, and flower seeds for planting. "I spy water!" shouted Aled. He

pointed to a watering can, sitting on the newly tilled soil. It was large and heavy with a special spout for pouring water.



Aled and Siân walked on past the houses until they reached the river. They stood on the grey stone bridge and peered into the water. There, where it

was clear and calm, they could see their watery reflections. There, somewhere hidden from view, they wondered about all the living things.



Aled and Siân. stood by the riverbank to watch a man fishing. Beside him, they could see a boy proudly sailing his toy boat. “I spy water!” shouted

Siân. She pointed toward the river. The river was busy with people, who were doing many different things.



Aled and Siân left the river to see what else they could find. They walked past the local park, past the smart bungalows and past the old terraced houses.

Then they came to the house where their friends Ahmed and Salma live. They rang the doorbell and waited for their friends to open the door.



Inside their house, Ahmed and Salma's father was busy by the sink, washing himself with water from the tap. "He is getting ready to pray," said Salma.

"I wonder why water is so important for Muslim prayer?" said Aled to Siân, as they watched Ahmed and Salma's father so busy washing.



That morning Aled and Siân went with their friends to the playground. They continued to puzzle about why water was so important for Muslim prayer. After they had finished playing on the swings and

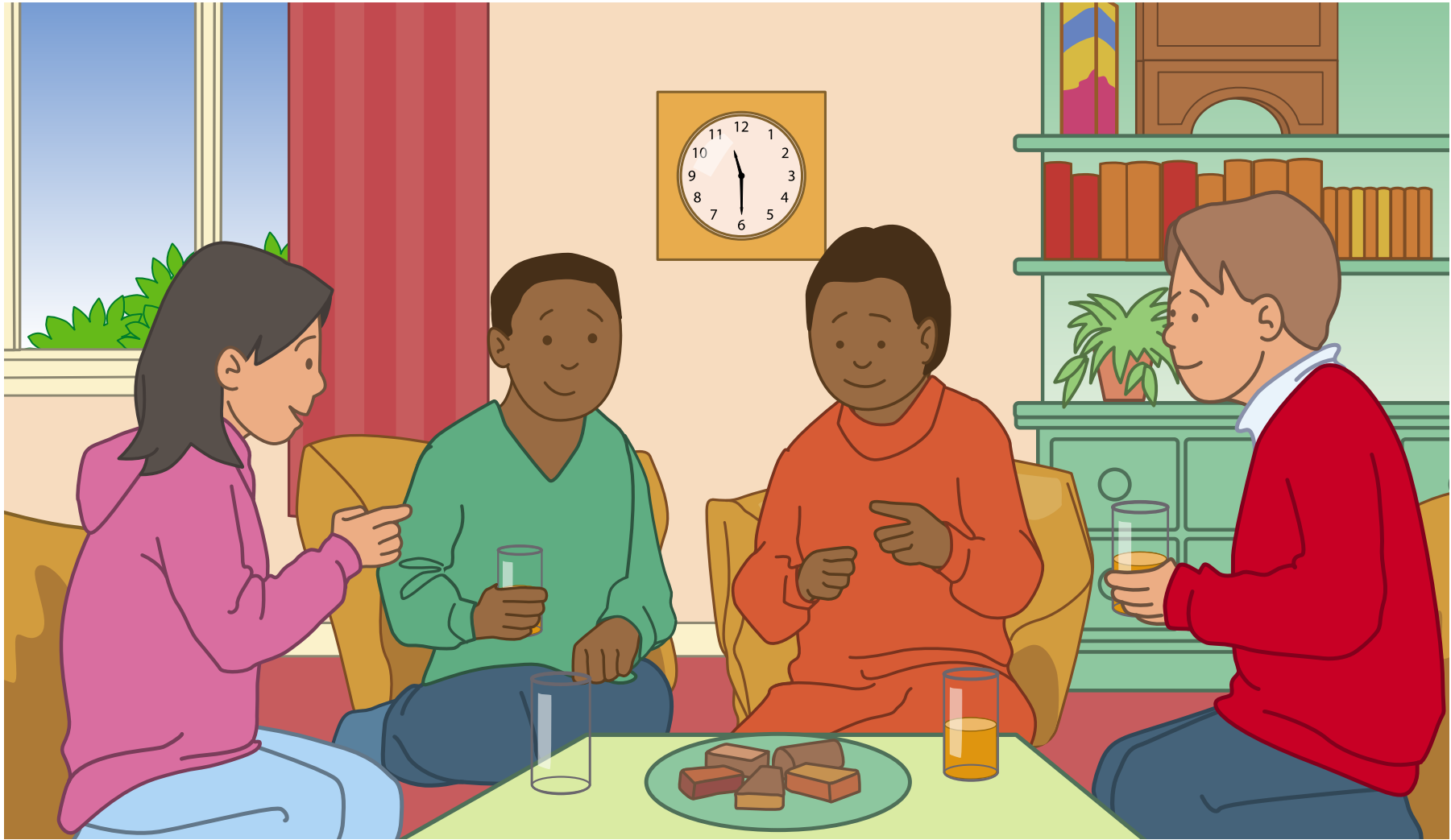
climbing frame, Ahmed and Salma took Aled and Siân to their mosque to help them discover the answer to their question.



Inside the mosque Aled and Siân took off their shoes and placed them on the rack. They covered their heads with the cap and the scarf given to them by Ahmed and Salma. Standing near the

washrooms, they heard the sounds of people preparing themselves for prayer. “I wonder why water is so important for Muslim prayer?” said Siân to Aled.





Ahmed and Salma took Aled and Siân back to their house and said that they had something to show them there. Sharing orange juice and cakes, they

talked about how Muslims pray to Allah five times a day. Then Ahmed and Salma began to tell them why water is so important for Muslim prayer.



Reaching up to the top shelf, Ahmed and Salma took down the Qur'an with its stand. Before they opened the book, they cleaned their hands and

covered their heads. "This is our special book. Here in surah 5, Allah tells Muslims to wash in a special way before we pray," said Salma.



Ahmed and Salma told Aled and Siân that washing cleaned both the outside and the inside of Muslims. When they were clean, they were ready to praise Allah in prayer.

Taking Aled and Siân to another room, Ahmed and Salma said that they would show them how Muslims wash before they pray.



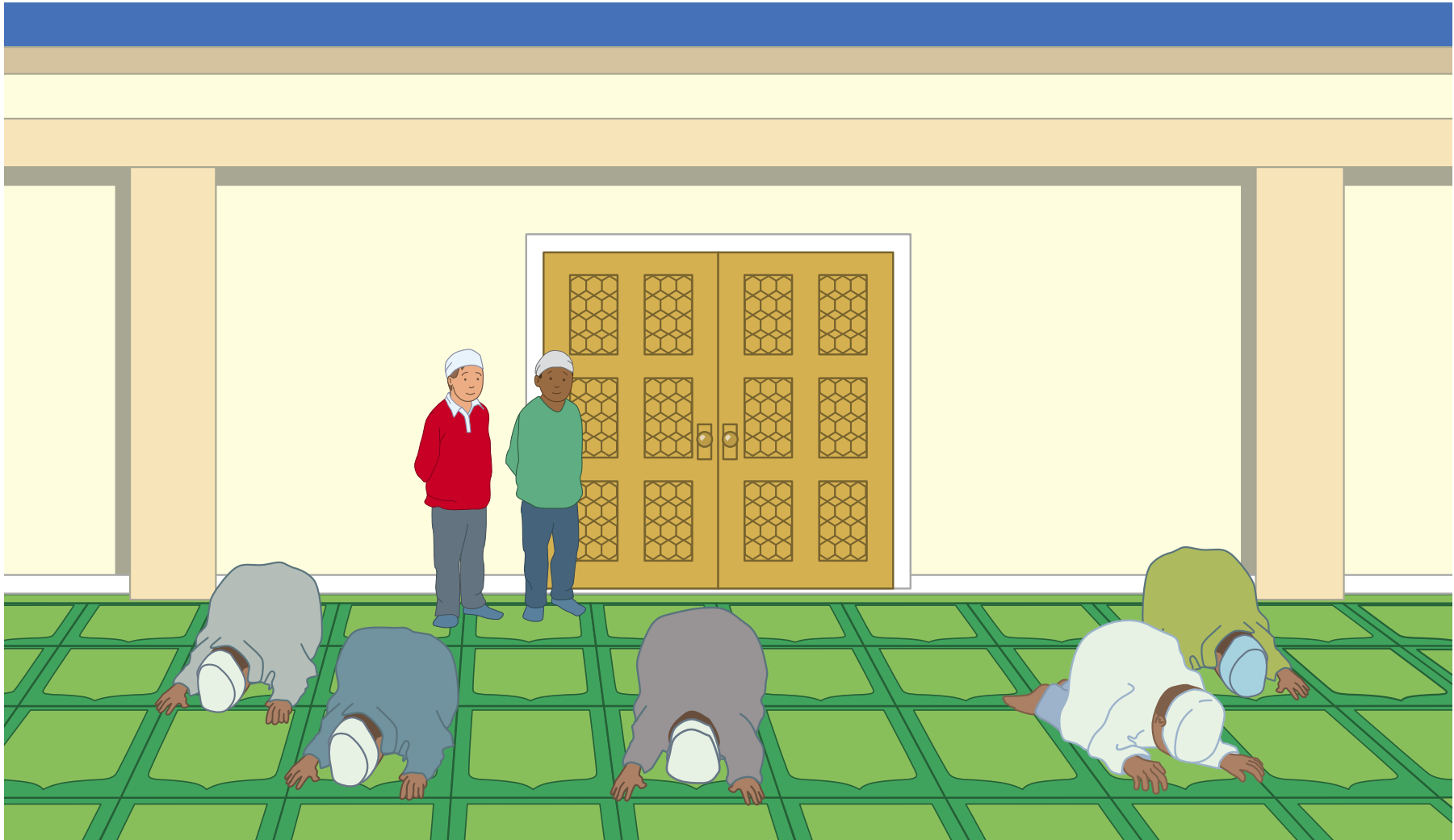
Aled and Siân saw their friends fill a basin with clean water and heard them recite the words of the Bismillah. “In the name of Allah, Most Gracious,

Most Merciful,” said Ahmed and Salma together. Then Aled and Siân watched as they washed their hands, mouths, noses, faces, arms, heads and feet.



Ahmed and Salma took Aled and Siân back to the mosque for the Jum'ah prayers at noon. Aled and Siân peered through the open doors into the large

prayer hall. They saw the patterned carpet in the unfurnished room. They saw the qibla wall, which showed Muslims the direction to face during prayer.



Then Ahmed took Aled to have a closer look at the men who had gathered to pray. The men bowed, kneeled and prostrated themselves on the floor

before Allah. Together they spoke words in Arabic, praising Allah's greatness, giving thanks for Allah's gifts and asking for Allah's blessings.



Ahmed and Salma told Aled and Siân that many Muslims pray like this five times a day at home, at work or at the mosque. Praying helped them to remember all the good things Allah gives to them

and to be thankful, every day. Water gives life, and Ahmed and Salma believe that this is a very special gift from Allah.



The prayers finished with a Muslim greeting to those around them. “Salaam ‘Alaykum,” said everyone. This means, ‘Peace be upon you’. Ahmed

and Salma turned to Aled and Siân, and said, “Soon, we too will be old enough to wash and pray five times a day!”





On their way back home, Aled and Siân thought about how wonderful water is and the many ways people use water. As the rain fell all around them,

they reached out to catch the raindrops in their hands. “Now we know why water is so important for Muslim prayer!” said Aled and Siân together.

Aled and Siân are playing 'I Spy' and today they are looking for 'Water'. They find water in all kinds of places around where they live. When Aled and Siân visit their friends, Ahmed and Salma, they start asking an important question – “I wonder why water is so important for Muslim prayer?” With the help of Ahmed and Salma, Aled and Siân begin to find some answers.



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