

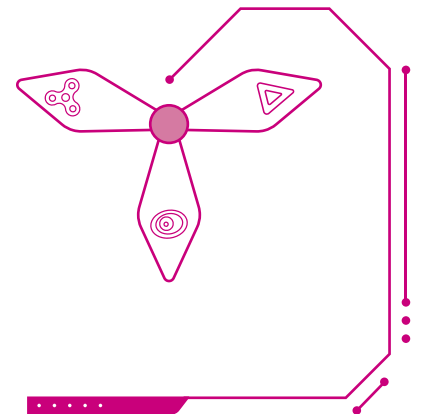


ACTIVITIES & HANDOUTS | SECONDARY

# MAJLIS AROUND THE WORLD

**Subject:** Social Studies, Moral Education, Humanities, Entrepreneurship, Arts & Design

**Years:** Cycle 3 / Secondary



• **CONNECTING MINDS**  
UAE FROM PARTICIPATION  
TO HOSTING

# WHAT IS A MAJLIS?



## MAJLIS THROUGH HISTORY

Majlis is an Arabic term for “the sitting place”. Historically, a Majlis was a space for tribes to gather in one place and discuss events and challenges pertaining to their community. It was a place to connect, identify challenges, and come up with solutions that serve the tribe.

More recently, Majlis has widened the circle to not only include families, but also friends, and people from other communities from different backgrounds and cultures. It’s known as an informal space for friends and families to gather, connect, discuss various topics, and enjoy their time together. Today, digital technology and communication brings the world much closer together. However, some might argue that technology can also separate us. When everyone is busy with their phones and computers, are they really connected?

## MAJLIS AND CONNECTION

Sometimes the best way to connect and discuss might be to simply sit together and listen with an open mind. An ideal setting for such discussions is the Majlis. Participating in Majlis helps us to reflect on:

- How can we have meaningful conversations?

- How can we challenge ourselves to seek to understand versus judge people who have different views, beliefs, opinions, etc.
- How can we connect through our differences to find solutions to some challenges we are facing today?

## MAJLIS AND HERITAGE

In 2015, the UN cultural organisation, UNESCO, added the Majlis to its Intangible Cultural Heritage register, recognising Majlis as one of the world’s great cultural treasures along with qahwa (Arabic coffee) and Al Rafza traditional dance. UNESCO described the Majlis as “open to all people” and “playing an important role in the transfer of oral heritage”.

**Majlis helps to connect minds and create the future – just like Expo 2020 aims to do.**



Find out more:

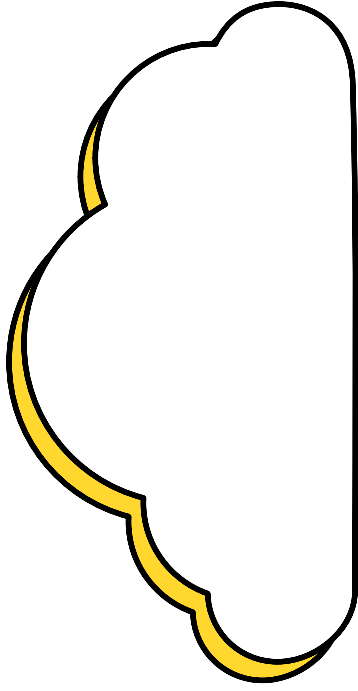
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<https://worldinconversation.org/>

<https://www.expo2020dubai.com/en/World-Majlis/World-Majlis#vision>

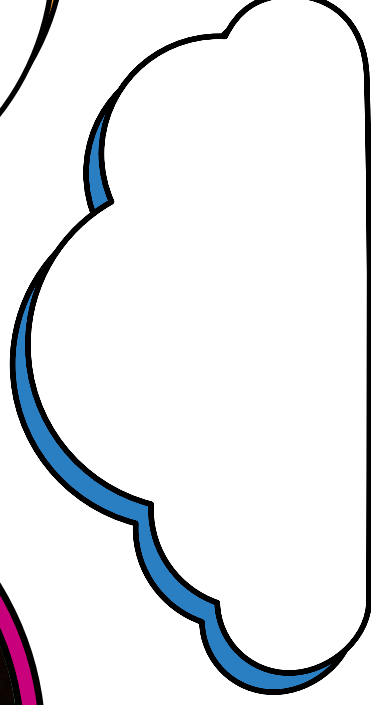
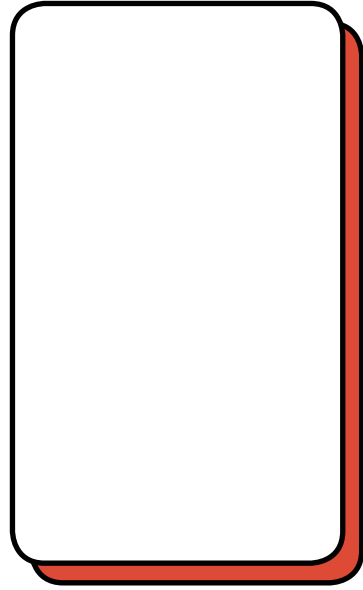
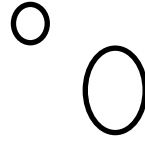
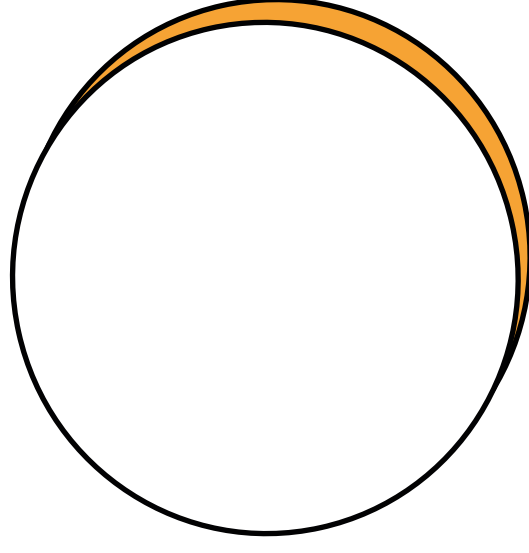
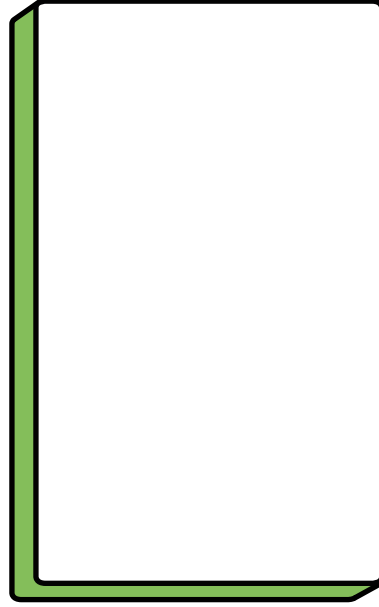
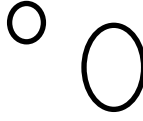
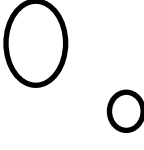
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/Majlis-a-cultural-and-social-space-01076>

# 01. THE ROLE OF A MAJLIS

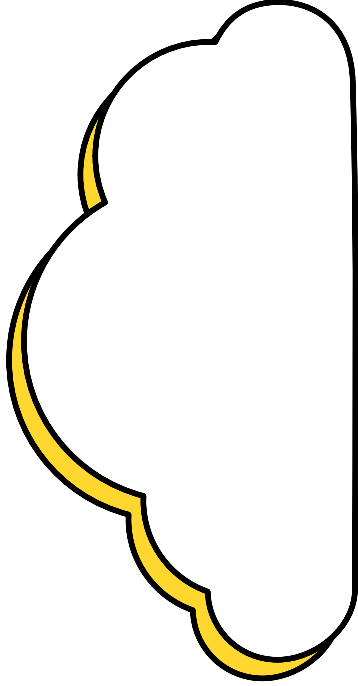


What challenges could a Majlis help people solve?

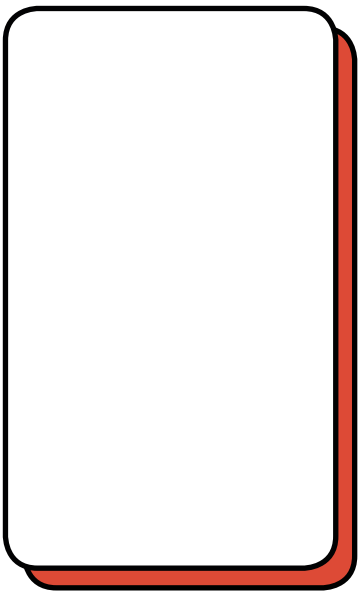
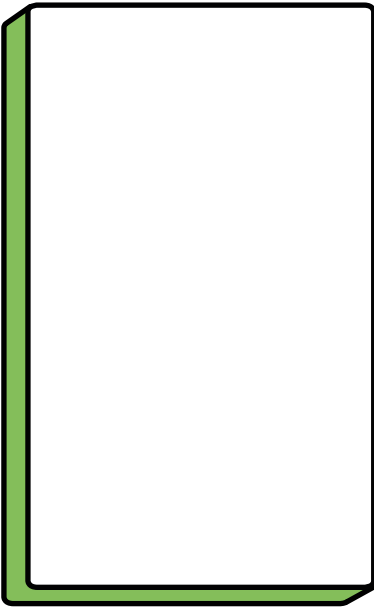
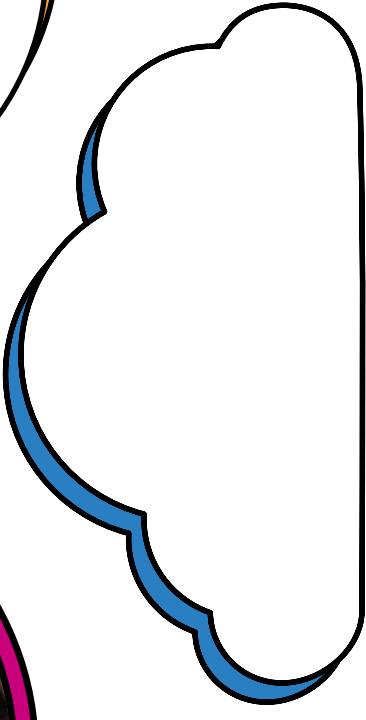
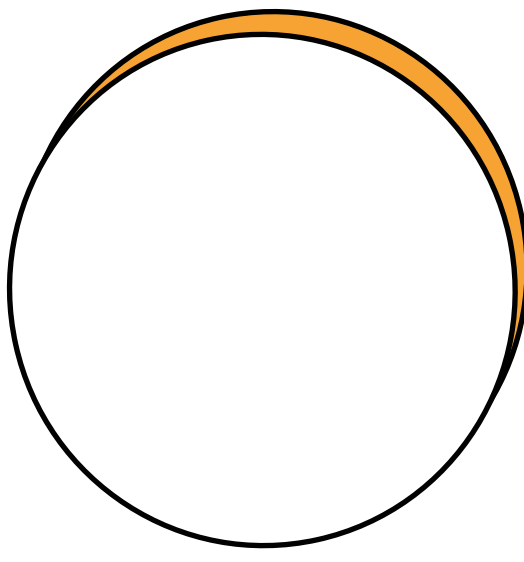
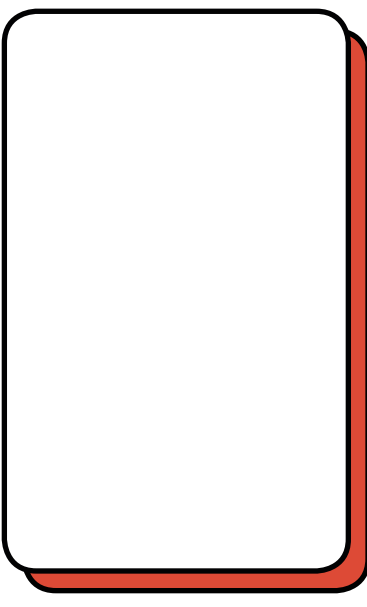
How is a Majlis different to a conversation  
or business meeting?



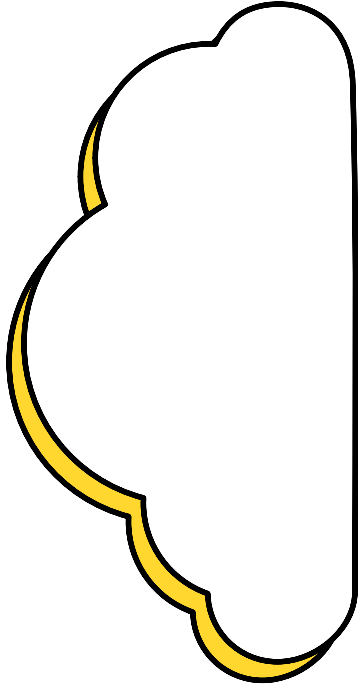
# 02. INVITING PEOPLE TO A MAJLIS



Why is it important that a Majlis includes people with different backgrounds and perspectives?  
How could you invite people to take part?

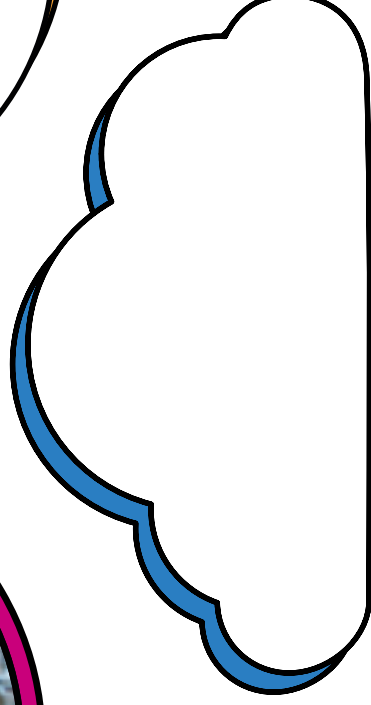
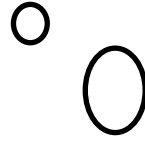
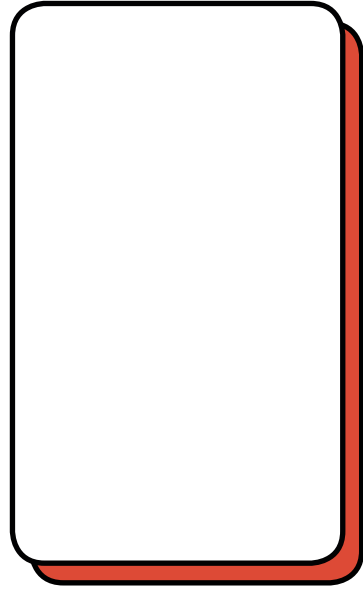
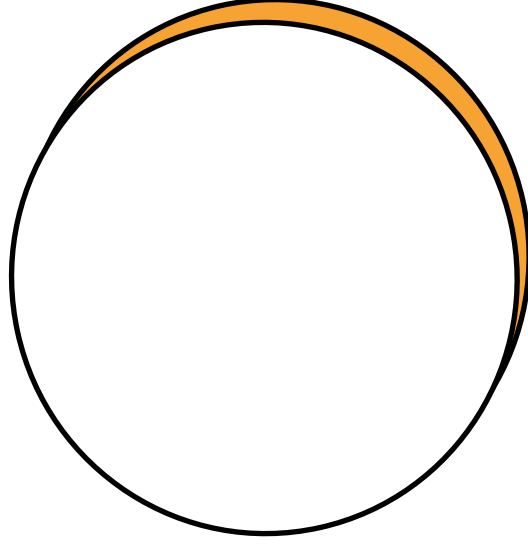
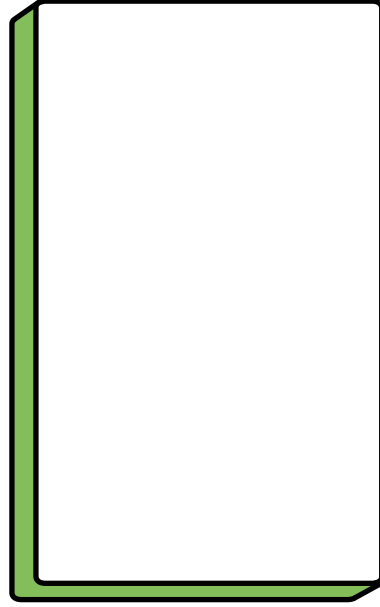


# 03. LOCATION AND SETTING



What might be a good location for a Majlis?

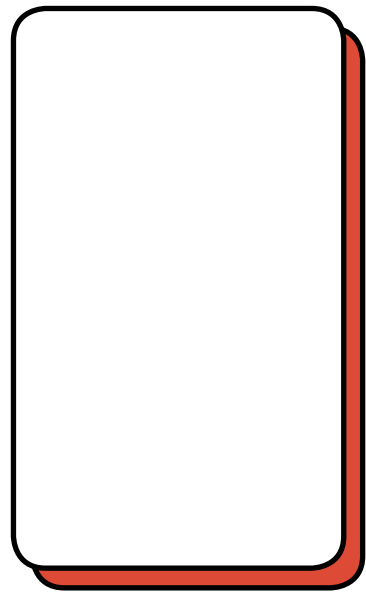
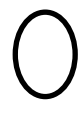
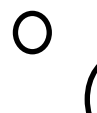
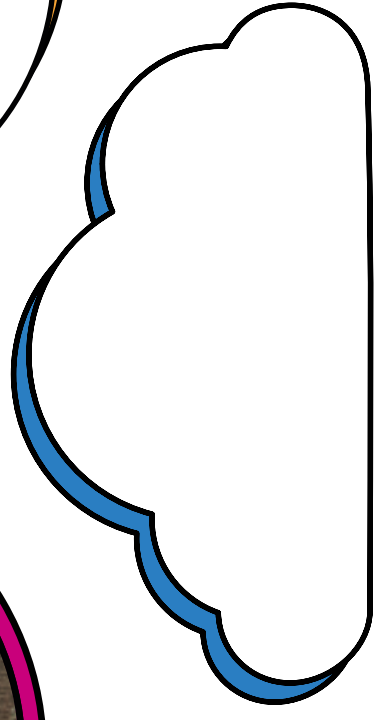
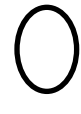
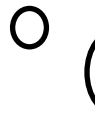
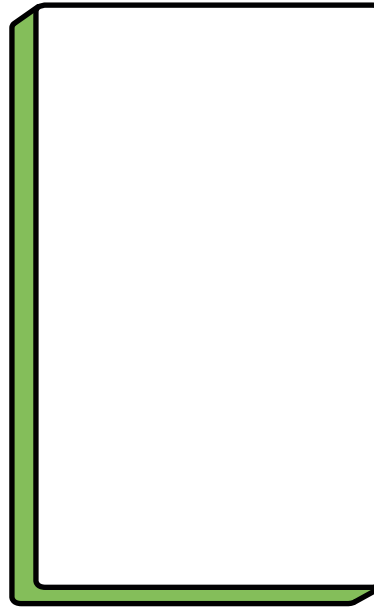
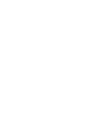
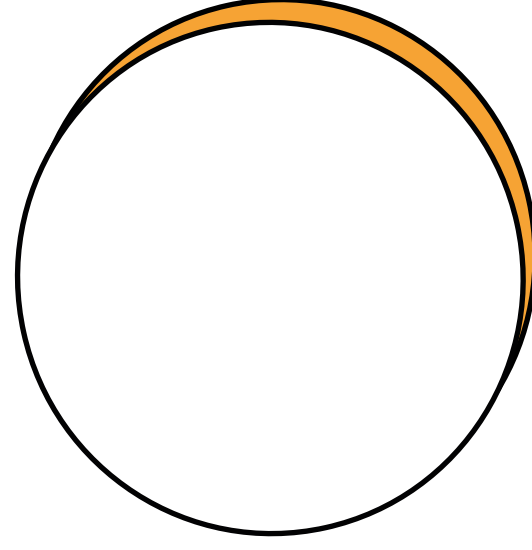
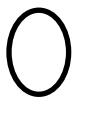
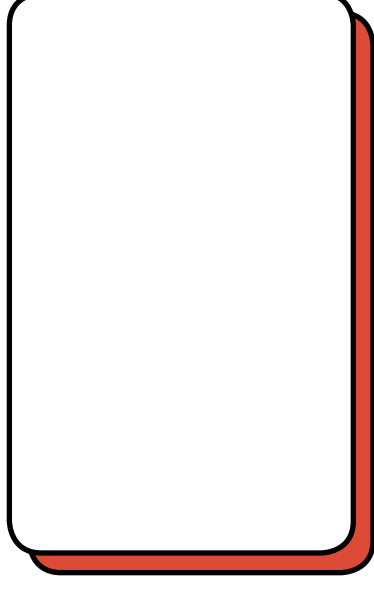
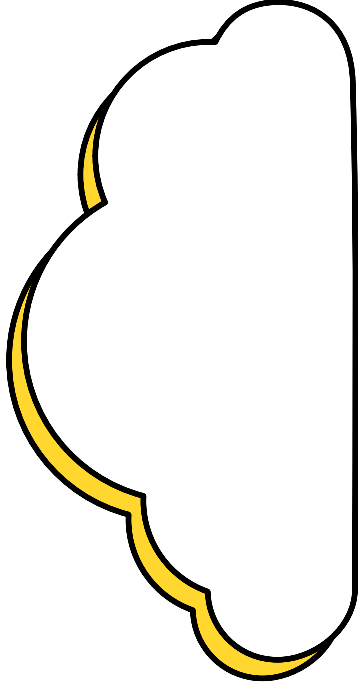
What should go in the room and how should it be set up?



# 04. HOSPITALITY

What examples of Middle Eastern hospitality can be shown during a Majlis?

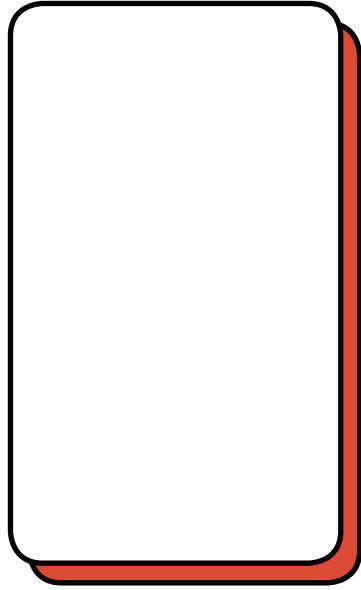
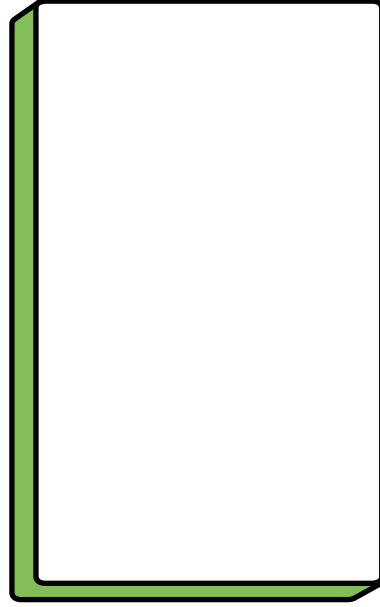
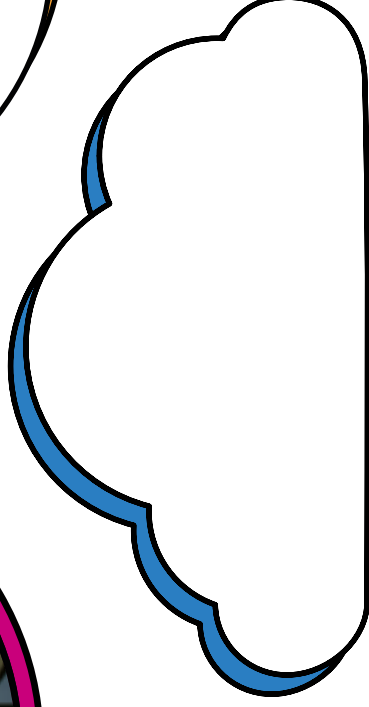
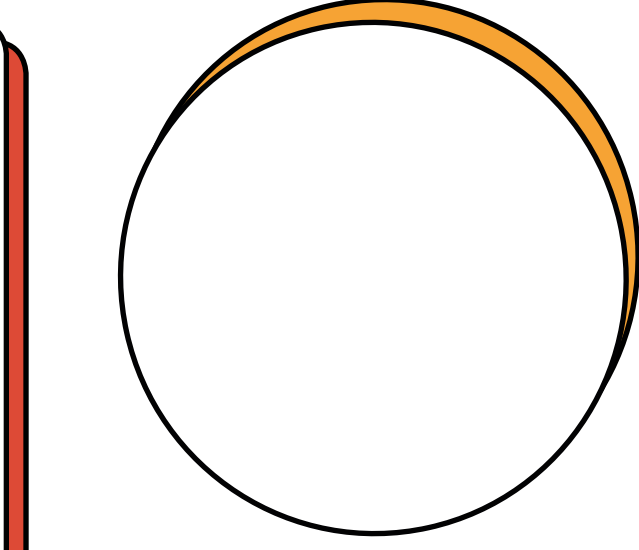
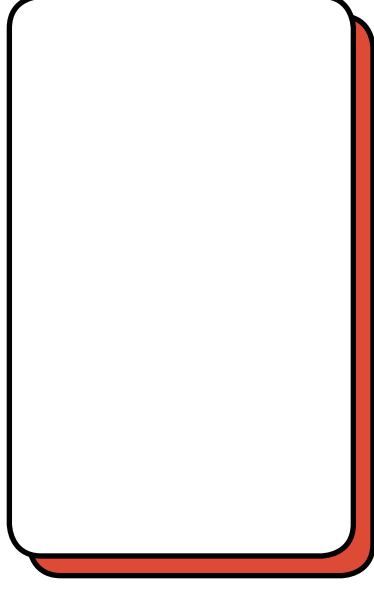
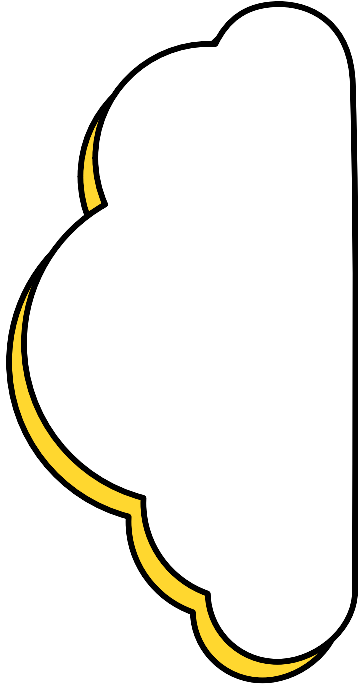
What food and drink could be served to reflect Middle Eastern culture?



# 05. STRUCTURE

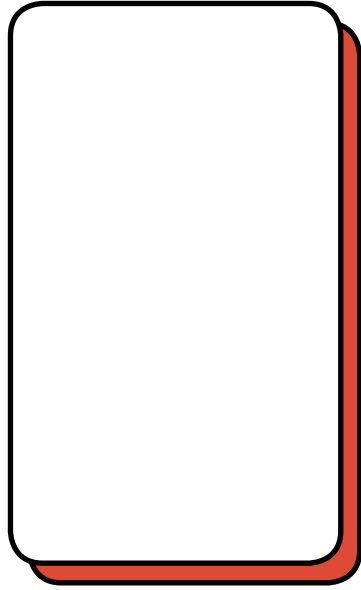
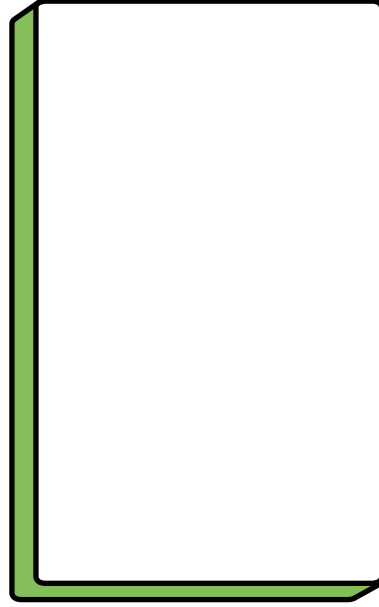
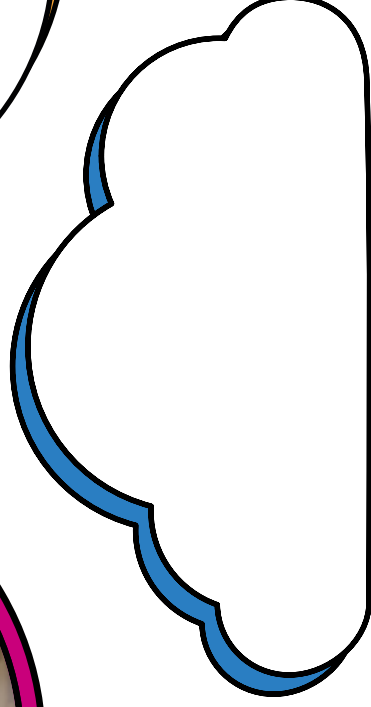
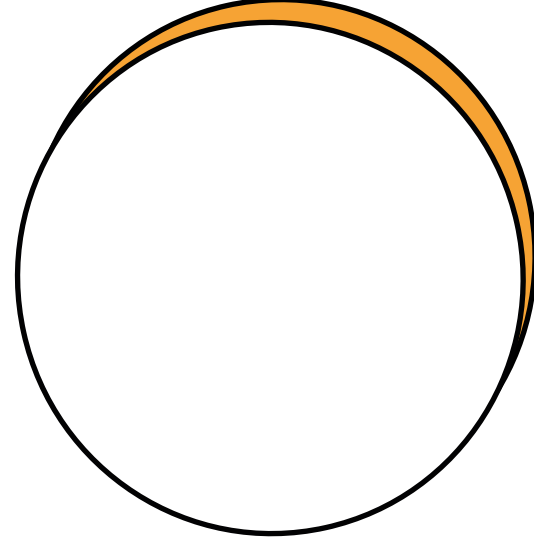
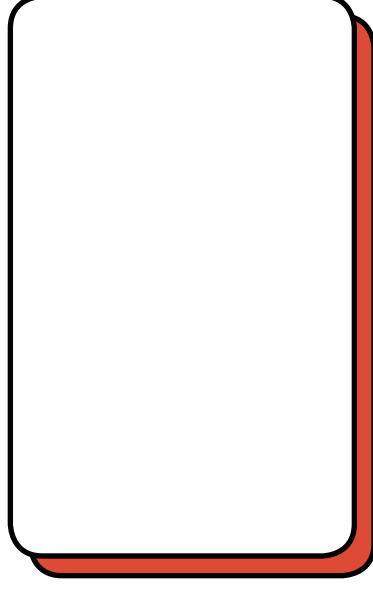
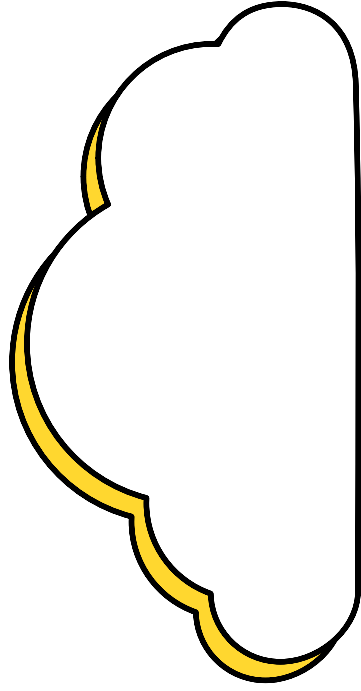
Should a Majlis have a formal structure, or be a more open-ended conversation?

Who should lead a Majlis and how?



# 06. STARTING THE MAJLIS

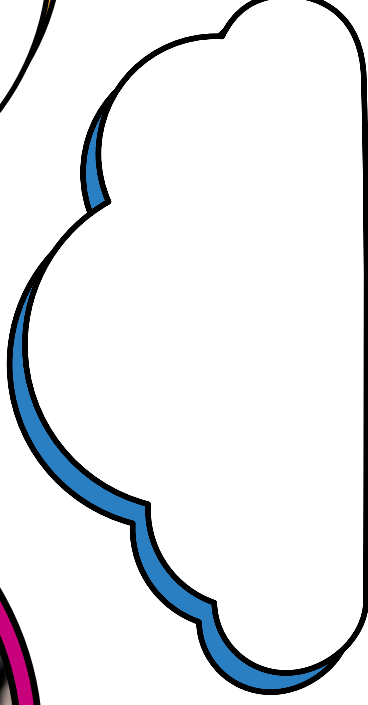
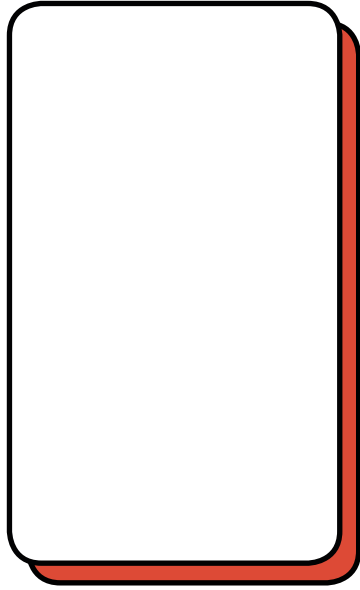
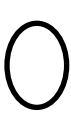
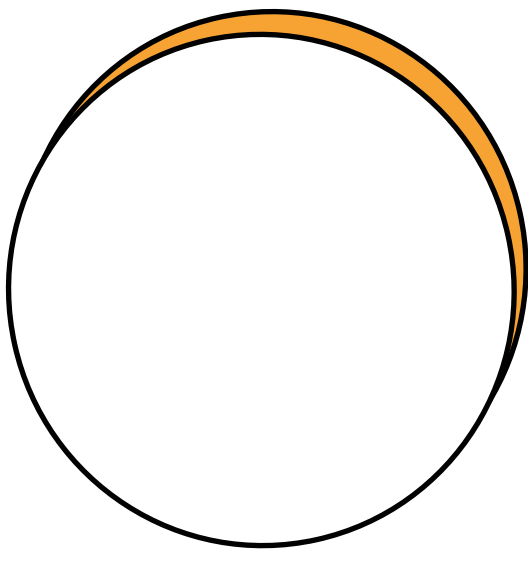
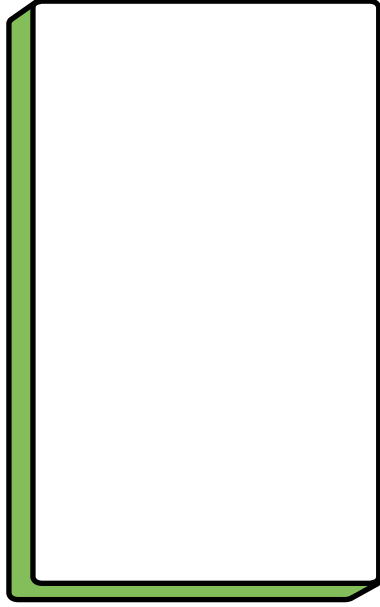
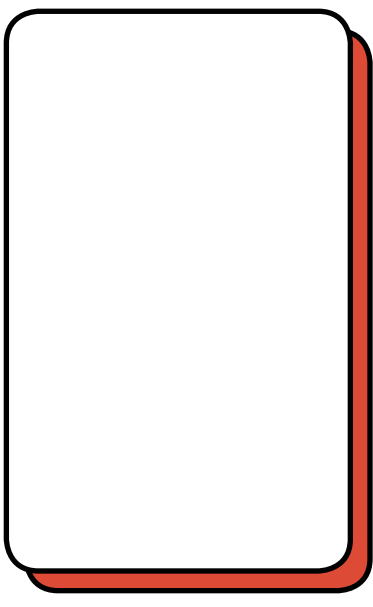
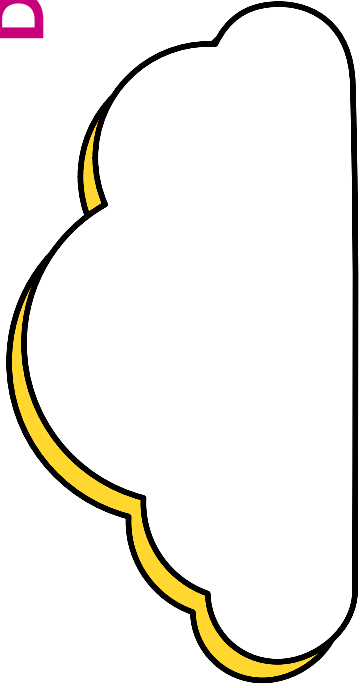
What is an appropriate way to start a Majlis?



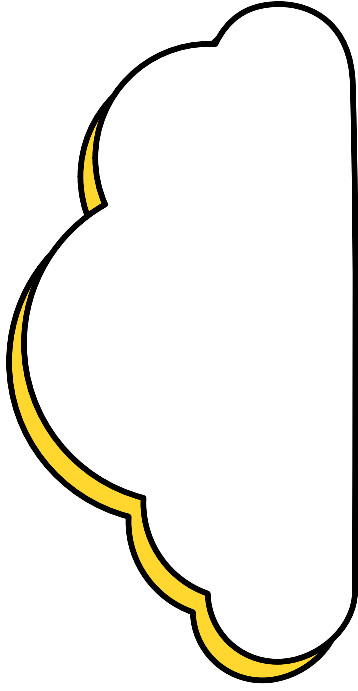


# 07. SKILLS AND PRACTICES DURING THE MAJLIS

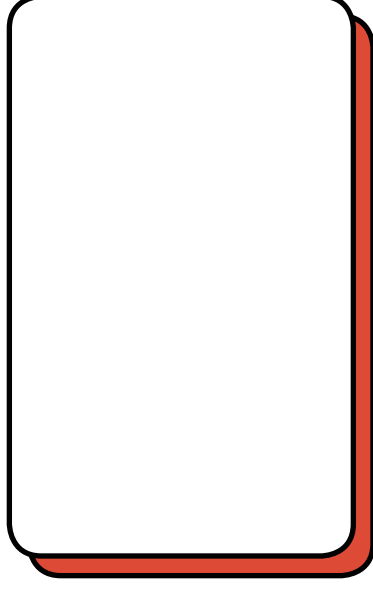
Rank the skills and practices on your wall, from most to least important. How could your Toolkit help people improve each skill or practice to use during a Majlis?



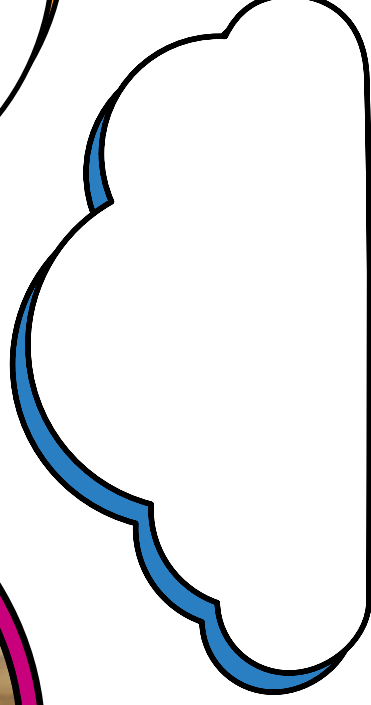
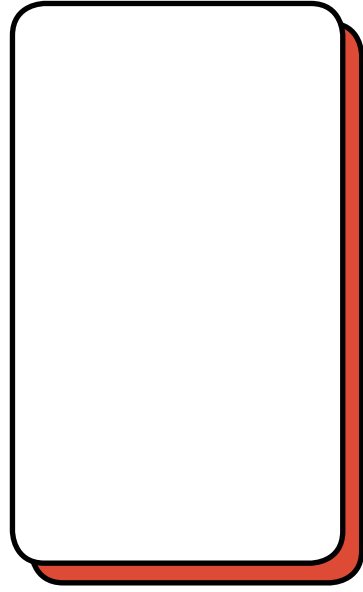
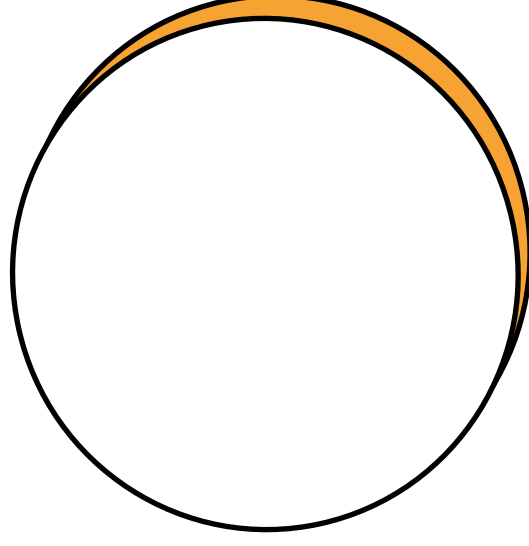
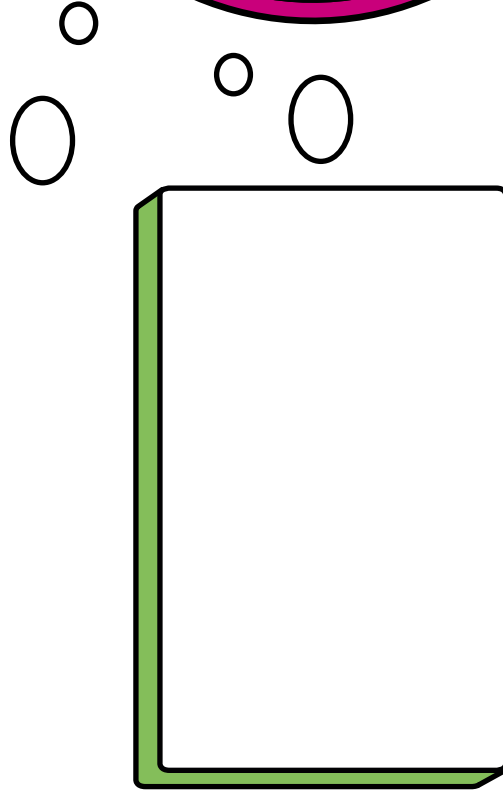
# 08. ENDING THE MAJLIS



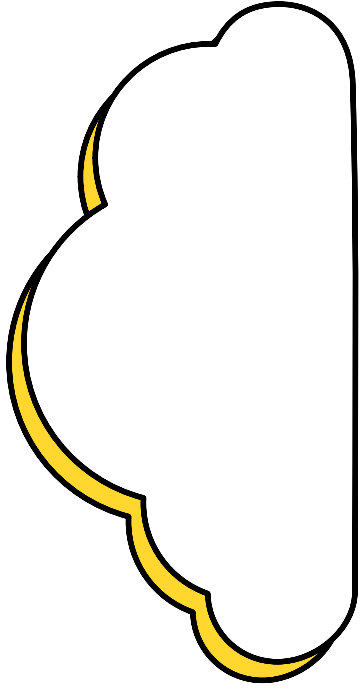
What ideas would help people negotiate their decision?



What is an appropriate way to end a Majlis?



# 09. TOOLKIT FORMAT



What learning activities could help organisers and people prepare for a Majlis?  
What would be the best way to present different content?

