Worksheet for Simon O’Meara’s “Ka'ba”
by Sascha Crasnow
*(to be used with video linked here)*

Key Takeaways:

1. What are the two key definitions of *Ka‘ba*? What does the word *Ka‘ba* likely mean?

2. What are the two structures that comprise the *Ka‘ba*? In your answer, define the following terms:
   - *Shadharwan*
   - *Kiswa*
   - *Hatim*
   - *Hijr*

3. Describe the doors to the *Ka‘ba*. 
4. What is in the interior of the Ka‘ba?

5. What is the bab al-tawba? What is the function of the Ka‘ba’s sloped roof? And what is the mizab al-rahma?

6. What is al-rukn and what is its significance within pilgrimage rituals?

Contextualizing the Work

1. The Ka‘ba’s architecture blends together religious and practical functions (consider its use in religious ritual as well as in relationship to weather conditions). Select another Islamic building that serves a religious function. How does this structure address both the religious and the practical? And how have these issues impacted its preservation over time?