

# Islam: Keeping the Five Pillars – what difference does it make?

## Key Questions:

1. What is the mosque used for?
2. What do Muslims believe about God?
3. Why is prayer important to Muslims?
4. What does Hajj mean to Muslims?
5. What does charity mean to Muslims? What does charity mean to you?
6. Why do Muslims fast?
7. What commitments do I have in my own life?
8. How are sacred texts important to believers?
9. How does the Qur'an give guidance to Muslims?



## Key Beliefs

**Muslims** believe that there is only one God called **Allah**. They believe **Allah** is the only ruler of the universe. The word '**Islam**' means submission and obedience to **Allah**.

**Muhammad** is so highly respected by **Muslims** that they will say "peace be upon him" after his name is spoken.

## Place of Worship

The **Muslim** place of worship is called a **mosque**. Services are held in **mosques** every day. The most important service for **Muslims** is on a Friday.

**Mosques** often have a domed roof. There are no images of people or animals in **mosques**. They are decorated with patterns and words from **the Qur'an**.

**Muslims** take off their shoes before going into the **mosque** and wash before they pray. **Muslims** pray kneeling on the floor on a prayer mat. The wall of the **mosque** which faces **Mecca** is called the qibla wall. It has an empty arch to show the direction of Mecca.

## The Six Main Beliefs

1. Belief in **Allah** as the one and only God.
2. Belief in angels.
3. Belief in the holy books.
4. Belief in the **prophets** and that **Muhammad** was the final **prophet**.
5. Belief in the Day of Judgement (the day when **Allah** decides if a person goes to heaven or hell).
6. Belief in predestination (the belief that **Allah** has already planned out what will happen).

## The Five Pillars of Islam

As well as the six main beliefs, there are **Five Pillars of Islam**.

**Shahadah:** **Muslims** say a declaration of faith.

**Salah:** **Muslims** pray five times a day. Before prayer, they must wash themselves and then face **Mecca** whilst praying.

**Zakat:** **Muslims** must donate to charities.

**Sawm:** **Muslims** fast for one month during a time called **Ramadan**.

**Hajj:** **Muslims** have to travel to **Mecca** once in their lifetime, if they can afford to.

## Key Vocabulary

<b>Mecca</b>	<b>Mecca</b> is an important place to <b>Muslims</b> . It is where <b>Muhammad</b> was born. <b>Muslims</b> face <b>Mecca</b> to pray and try to visit it sometime during their lives.
<b>Hajj</b>	The name <b>Muslims</b> give to the special pilgrimage to <b>Mecca</b> .
<b>The Qur'an</b>	The holy book of <b>Islam</b> .
<b>Ramadan</b>	A <b>Muslim</b> festival where <b>Muslims fast</b> during the daylight and only eat after the sun has set.
<b>fast</b>	A period of time when <b>Muslims</b> do not eat.
<b>mosque</b>	<b>Muslim</b> place of worship.
<b>pilgrimage</b>	A journey to a special place of religious meaning.

**The Qur'an** The **Muslim** holy book is called the **Qur'an**. **Muslims** believe that it is a record of the exact words that Allah said.

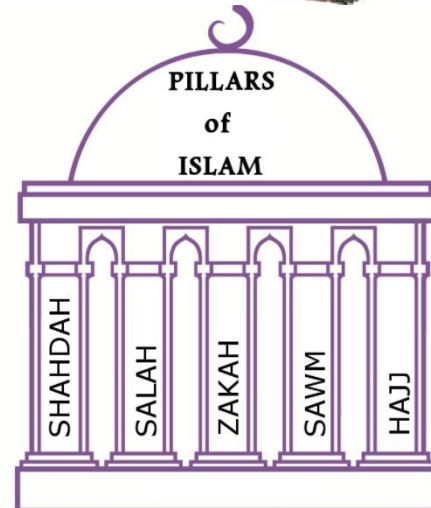
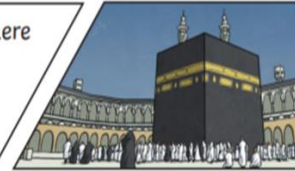


**Eid al-Fitr**

The main **Muslim** festivals are: **Ramadan**, Eid-al-Fitr, Eid-al-Adha, Dhu al-Hijja. During **Ramadan**, **Muslims** try to give up bad habits and become better **Muslims** by praying more.

**Muslim Festivals**

**Mecca** Mecca is an important place to **Muslims**. It is where **Muhammad** was born and the direction that **Muslims** face when they pray five times a day. **Muslims** are expected to make a **pilgrimage** to **Mecca** once in their lifetime.



## Symbol of Islam

There is no official symbol of **Islam**, but the star and crescent symbol is the symbol most commonly associated with Islam.



## Key Vocabulary

<b>Islam</b>	<b>Islam</b> is the second most popular religion in the world.
<b>Muslim</b>	A follower of the religion of <b>Islam</b> .
<b>Allah</b>	The Arabic name that <b>Muslims</b> use for God.
<b>Five Pillars of Islam</b>	The five things that <b>Muslims</b> are expected to do.
<b>Prophets</b>	Special messengers sent from <b>Allah</b> .
<b>Muhammad</b>	The last <b>prophet</b> and the key <b>prophet</b> in <b>Islam</b> .