

What should I already know?

What will I know by the end of the unit?

Knowledge and understanding

Describe and make connections between different features of religions, including celebrations, worship, pilgrimages and the rituals which mark birth, death and marriage

Describe a range of beliefs, symbols and actions showing links between different religions including rules for living and forms of worship

Explain similarities and differences within and between different religions and worldviews including key rituals, key artefacts, sacred places

Present their own and others' views to challenging questions about belonging, meaning, purpose and truth
Identify ways in which diverse communities can live together for the wellbeing of all

Vocabulary

Islam	Obedience and driven from the word peace.
Muslim	Follower of Islam.
Qu'ran	Holy book -m record of the exact words from Allah.
Masjid/Mosque	Place of worship.
Muhammad (peace be upon him)	Founder of Islam.
Allah	Supreme God.

Reflection and response

Reflect on the significance for faith members of participating in celebrations, worship, pilgrimages and the rituals which mark birth, death and marriage

Describe a range of beliefs, symbols and actions showing links between different religions including rules for living and forms of worship

Reflect on similarities and differences within and between different religions and worldviews including key rituals, key artefacts, sacred places

What are the Islam symbols?



The star and crescent is the best-known symbol used to represent Islam. You would find it on Islamic places of worship or on top of holy books.



The words "Allah" in Arabic script

Who is the founder of Islam?

The prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), who was born in A.D. 570 at Mecca, in Saudi Arabia, is often regarded as the founder of Islam. He was the last prophet to be sent by Allah. However the first prophet was Adam.

There were many prophets before Muhammad (pbuh) including: Adam, Noah, Abraham (Ibrahim), Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Moses (Musa), Aaron, David, Solomon, Elias, Jonah, John the Baptist, and Jesus (Isa), peace be upon them.

(peace be upon him - Muhammad is so revered that it is usual to make this statement every time his name is mentioned)

Who or what is Allah?

Allah is the name Muslims use for the supreme and unique God, who created and rules everything. The heart of faith for all Muslims is obedience to Allah's will.

Who is Muhammad (peace be upon him)?

Muhammad (pbuh) was born around 570 A.D. in the city of Mecca on the Arabian peninsula. Muslims believe that Muhammad (pbuh) is the last in a line of prophets that includes Moses, Abraham, and Isa (Jesus). Muhammad (pbuh) proclaimed that the Quran was the last Book of God, and that he himself was the last Prophet.

The Qur'an is a record of the exact words revealed by Allah through the Arch Angel Gabriel to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Muhammad (pbuh) memorized and wrote down the words.

Muslims treat the Qur'an with great respect because they believe that the Qur'an is from Allah, and every word and every letter is sacred. It is usually placed on a special wooden stand to be read.

Muhammad (pbuh) interpreted the words in his daily life. Therefore many of the things which Muhammad (pbuh) did and said were remembered and carefully recorded. The stories and sayings help Muslims to understand the Quran and put what it teaches into practice in their daily lives.

Where do Muslims worship?

The Muslim building for communal worship is called a mosque. Muslims often refer to the mosque by its Arabic name, **masjid**. The word comes from the Arabic for "place of prostration".

Very often Mosques have a domed roof and a tall tower called a minaret. Muslims are called to prayer from the minaret. The man who enters the minaret and calls them to prayer is called a muezzin.

There are no pictures or statues in a mosque. They are decorated with patterns and words from the Qur'an. There is also very little furniture inside because Muslims use prayer mats for prayer.

When people go into the mosque they take off their shoes. This is to keep it clean for prayer.

There is often a fountain or pool, or at least an area with water where people can wash (wudu). Muslim wash their hands, mouth, throat, nose, ears, arms up to the elbow and feet. This is a sacred wash that symbolises spiritual cleansing and purity in readiness for coming before God.

What are the five Pillars of Islam?

These are five duties that every Muslim is obliged to perform. The *five pillars of Islam* help Muslims put their faith into action.

- **Shahadah:** declaration of faith
"I bear witness that there is no god, but God; I bear witness that Muhammad is the prophet of God."
By reciting this, one enters Islamic faith.
- **Salah:** prayer
Muslims are required to pray five times a day, washing themselves before prayer and facing in the direction of Mecca while praying.
- **Zakat:** giving a fixed proportion to charity
Muslims are required to give away a percentage of their earnings to those less fortunate, regardless of their religion.
- **Saum:** fasting during the month of [Ramadan](#)
Muslims fast for one lunar month each year, a period called Ramadan. During this time, Muslims reflect on their behaviour and strive to purify their thoughts.
- **Hajj:** pilgrimage to Mecca
If it is financially possible, Muslims are required to travel to Mecca once in their lifetime.

What is so special about how Muslims pray?

Muslims are required to :

- pray five times a day (prayer times are fixed by the sun and change daily),
- wash themselves before prayer and
- face in the direction of Mecca (Mekkah) while praying.

Why do Muslims face Mecca when praying?

Mecca or **Makkah** is the birthplace of prophet Muhammad, peace is on him. In the center of the mosque in Mecca, is the cube-shaped building called a **Kaaba** (Ka'bah) is found. All Muslims face the direction of the Kaaba during ritual prayer (Salat).

Muslims believe that the Kaaba is the holiest place on earth. It is generally thought to have been built by Prophet Abraham. It is used only as a focal point for prayer (not worshiped) and simply signifies a direction, imposed by God to maintain unity and uniformity among worshipers.

The Kaaba is draped with a black cloth, which is covered with Koranic verses that are embroidered in gold and silver thread. During performing the Hajj ceremony a Muslim walks seven times around the Kaaba and then he or she kisses and touch the Black Stone.

Every Muslim family, no matter where they live, knows what direction the Kaaba is from their house.

(The Kaaba is also called Bakka)

When do Muslims pray?

Each period for prayer has a special name and each time is separated by two hours.
These essential times are:

1. After first light and before sunrise (Fajr)
2. Between the sun reaching its height and mid-afternoon (Dhuhr)
3. Between mid-afternoon and sunset (Asr)
4. After the sun has finished setting (Maghrib)
5. In the dark of the night (Isha)

Useful websites:

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/religion/Islam.htm>