

Islam

Islam is the second most popular religion in the world.

Key Vocabulary

Muslim	A follower of the religion of Islam.
Allah	The Arabic name that Muslims use for God.
Five Pillars of Islam	The five things that Muslims are expected to do.
Prophets	Special messengers sent from Allah.
Muhammed	The last prophet and the key prophet in Islam.
The Qur'an	The holy book of Islam. Muslims believe that it is a record of the exact words that Allah said.
mosque	The place where Muslims go to worship Allah.
Ramadan	A Muslim festival where Muslims fast.
Fast	To not eat or drink for a period of time.

Key Questions

- What is a Muslim? What do Muslims believe?
- Where do Muslims go to worship?
- What is a prophet? Do Muslims have a holy book?
- How do Muslims live their lives?
- What does the Qur'an say about how Muslims should treat others?



Main 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.

Muhammed is so highly respected by Muslims that they will say "Peace and blessings 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.

