

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.
tawhid	Oneness and uniqueness of God (Allah).
Five Pillars of Islam	The five things that Muslims are expected to do.
Shahadah	Faith in Allah (one God) and the harmonious world he has created.
Salah	Praying five times a day to Allah.
Sawm	Fasting (not eating and drinking) during daylight hours for 30 days during Ramadan.
Zakat	Amsgiving - giving surplus resources to those, who need it more than you do.
Hajj	Pilgrimage to Mecca, where Muslims believe Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was born.
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.
ummah	The global community of Muslims.

Main Beliefs



Muslims believe that there is only one God called Allah. They believe Allah is the only ruler of the universe.

Muhammed is so highly respected by Muslims that they will say "Peace and blessings be upon him" after his name is spoken.

The Five Pillars of Islam

Shahadah (Faith)
To believe in no God but Allah and that Muhammad is his prophet and the messenger of Allah.

Salah (Prayer)
To pray five times each day:
Fajr - Before Sunrise
Zuhr - Early Afternoon
Asr - Late Afternoon
Maghrib - After Sunset
Isha - Night.

Sawm (Fasting)
To give up food and drink during daylight hours in the month of Ramadan.

Zakah (Almsgiving)
To give a share of personal wealth to help people in need and support the Muslim community.

Hajj (Pilgrimage)
To perform a pilgrimage to Makkah at least once in a lifetime.

Key Questions

- What is a Muslim?
- What do Muslims believe?
- How is Muslim belief expressed collectively?
- How does Muslim worship and celebration build a sense of community?
- How does collective worship and celebration affect the environment?

Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is a journey to a special place that is important for religious reasons. Different religions have different special places that pilgrimages are made to. All places of pilgrimage are considered to be sacred and holy and they can be places where miracles have taken place. A person who goes on a pilgrimage is called a pilgrim.

Key Vocabulary

pilgrimage	A special journey to a place that is important for religious reasons.
holy	Something or somewhere that is dedicated to or associated with God or a religious purpose.
miracle	Something extraordinary and positive that is believed to have happened because of another power, such as a god.
sacred	Something that is connected with God or a god.

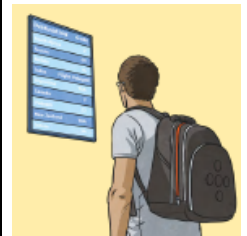
Key Questions








- What is a pilgrimage?
- What does a pilgrimage involve?
- Where do people go on pilgrimages to?
- What is someone who goes on a pilgrimage called?
- Why is pilgrimage an important aspect of some religions?



Are Pilgrimages important to all religions?

Although going on a pilgrimage is important to many different religions, this is not true with every religion. Some Sikhs go on pilgrimages but many do not as it is not seen as a compulsory part of Sikhism.



Muslim Pilgrimages 	Jewish Pilgrimages 	Christian Pilgrimages 	Hindu Pilgrimages 
<p>In Islam pilgrimage is important. All three types of Muslims (Sunni, Shia and Sufi) take pilgrimages. Each group of Muslims has its own pilgrimages but they all believe in a special pilgrimage called Hajj. All Muslims try to go once in their life, as this is the fifth pillar of Islam. For Hajj, Muslims travel across the world to visit Mecca.</p> 	<p>In the past, it used to be the duty for all followers of Judaism to pilgrimage to Jerusalem three times a year during specific festivals. It is no longer a duty, but Jews still go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem as it is their holiest city. Jews go to pilgrimage at the Western Wall (or Wailing Wall) as it is the last site of a destroyed Jewish temple. Jews pray at the wall and write messages to God.</p> 	<p>There are different views on pilgrimage in Christianity. For some Christians, going on pilgrimage is important, whereas others do not believe it is that important. Christians who go on pilgrimages visit places that are in the New Testament in the Bible, or are linked with saints or miracles. Pilgrimages include Lourdes in France and Bethlehem.</p> 	<p>Pilgrimage is an important part of Hinduism. Hindus go on pilgrimages to several places, including temples and mountains. Once every 12 years, millions of people share in ritual bathing at the Kumbh Mela festival. This is held where the waters of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers combine. The River Ganges is the holiest river for Hindus.</p> 