



Islam



Year 1



Key Vocabulary

Islam	Islam is one of the world's major religions. Its founder was Muhammad.	Shahada	The belief that "There is no god but God, and Muhammad is the Messenger of God" is central to Islam.
Muslims	Followers of Islam are called Muslims.	Salat	Salah, prayer, is the second pillar. The belief that individuals have a direct relationship with God.
Saudi Arabia	Islam is the state religion of Saudi Arabia. The kingdom is called the "home of Islam"; it was the birthplace of the Islamic prophet Muhammad	Zakah	Zakat prescribes payment of fixed proportions of a Muslim's possessions for the welfare of the entire community and in particular for its neediest members.
Allah	Muslims believe there is one true God Allah (the Arabic word for God).	Sawm	Sawm, fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, is the fourth pillar of Islam.
Quran	The holy book of Islam	Hajj	Hajj, the pilgrimage to Makkah, is the fifth pillar and the most significant manifestation of Islamic faith and unity in the world.

WHAT?

1



Islam began in Saudi Arabia. Islam is the second largest religion in the world (over 1 billion followers). Followers of Islam are called Muslims. Muslims believe there is one true God (Allah). Muslims believe that Islam was revealed over 1400 years ago by a man called Muhammad.

2



The prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was born in A.D. 570 in Mecca, in Saudi Arabia. He is often regarded as the founder of Islam. He was the last prophet to be sent by Allah. The first prophet was Adam. The prophet Muhammad was the founder of the religion of Islam. Followers of Islam, called Muslims, believe that Muhammad received messages from Allah (God).

3



A mosque is a place of prayer for Muslims. Insides of mosques include an open space for worship. Rugs or mats cover the floor. A nook in one wall, called a mihrab, shows the direction of Mecca, Islam's holiest city. To the right of the mihrab is a platform or small tower, called a minbar. Religious leaders climb steps up to the minbar, where they speak to the worshippers. Muslims are required to wash before prayer. Outside most mosques is a tall tower, called a minaret. From the minaret a crier, or muezzin, calls Muslims to prayer. Some mosques have up to six minarets.

4



Five Pillars: believing in Allah and His Messenger, praying, fasting, giving charity, and performing Hajj.
 Shahadah - the Muslim creed / statement of faith
 Salah - prayer - Muslims must pray five times a day
 Zakat (or Zakah) - giving to those in need
 Sawm - fasting during Ramadan
 Hajj - making the pilgrimage to the holy city of Makkah (Mecca)

5



Prayer mat - Used to pray on, they are placed facing Mekkah (the holy city). They stop Muslims from touching the floor, it keeps them clean during prayer. They come in lots of different designs. Prayer beads - Muslims use them when praying. There are 99 beads. They remind Muslims of the 99 names of Allah. Some of Allah's names are: The Pure One, The Greatest, The Judge, The Magnificent, The forgiver. Quran stand - The Qur'an (Holy book) touching the floor is not allowed. During prayers the Qur'an is placed on here to keep it off the floor. They can have lots of designs too. Prayer hat - This would go over Muslim men's heads. It covers the head to show respect to Allah.

6



Ramadan begins the morning after people see the crescent moon. It can last for 29 or 30 days. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast. They cannot eat or drink anything between sunrise and sunset. Fasting reminds them of people who have less than they do, and makes them think more about their actions. Young children and older people are not expected to fast. Suhoor is the meal Muslim people eat before their day of fasting starts. Iftar is when Muslims will break their fast and are able to eat again. Going to mosque is an important part of both Ramadan and Eid. Eid al-Fitr is the festival that marks the end of Ramadan and the fast. It lasts for three days. Muslims will visit their families and have a large feast for lunch or dinner.