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MEANING AND BASIS

The Arabic word "Islam" means submission and obedience. It was derived from the word meaning "peace." Islam is based on Muhammad's ministry and the words Allah gave the world through Muhammad. A person who follows the religion of Islam is known as a Muslim.

ISLAM



ALLAH

Muslims use the name Allah for their one supreme and unique God, who created everything and the rules. Muslims believe in having obedience to Allah's will.

FOUNDER

The prophet Muhammad was born in A.D. 570 in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. He is often regarded as the founder of Islam. Muslims believe Muhammad was the last in a line of prophets including Moses, Abraham, and Isa (Jesus). Muhammad said the Quran was the last Book of God. The Quran recorded the exact words revealed by Allah through the Arch Angel Gabriel to Muhammad. Muhammad memorized the words and wrote them down. Muhammad interpreted the words in his daily life, so many of the things he did and said were remembered and carefully recorded. His stories and sayings help Muslims understand the Quran and put its teachings into practice in their daily lives.

BELIEFS

Muslims believe in only one God, who name in Arabic is Allah. He is the sole and sovereign ruler of the universe. Muslims have six main beliefs:

- I. Allah is the one and only God.
- 2. Belief in angels.
- 3. Belief in holy books.
- 4. Belief in prophets, special messengers.
- 5. Belief in the Day of Judgement- when each human will be assessed to determine whether he or she goes to heaven or hell.
- 6. Belief in **Predestination-** Allah has already determined what will happen, but Muslims believe this does not stop humans from making free choices.

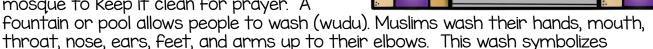
HOLY TEXTS

The Holy Quran is the book of Muslim scripture. Muslims believe it is "the word of God." The beliefs and practices of Muslims are rooted in their holy book. The Quran is treated with great respect and it is believed to be from Allah, so every word and letter is sacred. It is typically placed a special wooden stand to be read. The Quran is regarded as the unaltered word of God by Muslims. The hadith are additional texts describing the actions and sayings of Muhammad not recorded in the Quran. They were mainly gathered by Islamic scholars after Muhammad's death. OTeaching to the Middle

PLACE OF WORSHIP

A mosque is a Muslim building for communal worship. Its Arabic name is masjid, meaning "place of prostration." An "imam" usually leads prayers in a mosque. Mosques often have domed roofs and tall towers, called minarets. Muslims are called to prayer from the minaret. The man who calls them to worship is known as a muezzin. There are no pictures or statues in a mosque. They

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spiritual cleansing and purity in preparation before coming before God. A quibla wall faces Mecca in a mosque. An empty arch signifies the direction, which is important so Muslims know which way to pray. Women do not pray in the same location as men so there is a usually a screened off area for them.

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PRAYER

Mecca is the birthplace of prophet Muhammad. The cube-shaped building called a Kaaba is located in the center of the mosque in Mecca. All Muslims face in the direction of Kaaba during their ritual prayer. Muslims believe the Kaaba is the holiest place on earth. It is thought to have been built by the Prophet Abraham. It is only used a focal point for prayer, not worshipped. It simply signifies direction, imposed by God to maintain unity and uniformity among worshippers. The Kaaba is draped with a black cloth covered with Koranic verses embroidered in gold and silver thread. A Muslim walks around the Kaaba seven times during the Hajj, then kisses and touches the Black Stone. Muslims always knows what direction the Kaaba is from their home. Each period for prayer has a special name and is separated by two hours.

- I) Fajr- After first light and before sunrise
- 2) Dhuhr- Between the sun reaching its height and mid-afternoon
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TYPES

Around 90 percent of Muslims are Sunnis. Shiites are the second-largest group. The Shiites split from the Sunnis when Muhammad died in 632.

FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

There are five duties that a Muslim is supposed to perform. The five pillars of Islam assist Muslim in putting their faith into action.

- I. Shahadah- declaration of faith. To enter the Islamic faith one recites: "I bear witness that there is no god, but God; I bear witness that Muhammad is the prophet of God."
- 2. Salat- prayer. Muslims are required to pray five time a day, washing themselves prior to prayer and facing in the direction of Mecca while praying.
- 3. Zakat- giving a fixed proportion to charity. Muslims are required to give away a percentage of what they earn to those who are less fortunate, no matter their denomination.
- **4. Saum-** fasting during the month of Ramadan. Muslims fast for one lunar month each year. This period, known as Ramadan, is a time for Muslims to reflect on their behavior and purify their thoughts.
- 5. Hajj-Pilgrimage to Mecca. If financially possible, Muslims are required to travel to Mecca once in their lifetime.

FESTIVALS

A Muslim year is based on the Lunar (moon) calendar.



Ramadan- Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It is a time when Muslims across the world fast (do not eat) during daylight. There are some exclusions to those who must fast during Ramadan including the sick, pregnant, and young children. Muslims celebrate the time when the verses of the Quran were revealed to Muhammad during Ramadan. It is a time of worship, contemplation, family, and community ties. Muslims get up early before dawn and have a light meal in a time known as Suboor. Muslims traditionally break their fast with a meal called the iftar at the end of each day.

Ramadan ends with the festival of Eid ul-Fitr. **Eid-ul-Fitr-** The first day after Ramadan is called Eidul-Fitr. It marks the breaking of the fast for Muslims. It lasts three days and is a time for family and friends to get together, celebrate with good food and presents for children, and giving to charity.



Eid-ul-Adha- The Festival of Sacrifice occurs 70 days

after Eid-al-Fitr. It is the second most important festival in the Muslim calendar. It remembers the time when Abraham was going to sacrifice his own son to prove the obedience of God. It marks the end of the Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. Eid-ul-Adha takes place the 10th day of Dhul-Hijjah, the last month of the Islamic calendar.



Dhu Al-Hijja- This is the month of pilgrimage when all Muslims, at least once in their life, should attempt to make the pilgrimage to Mecca.

Al-Hijra- The Islamic New Year starts on the day Muhammad left Mecca to travel to Medina.

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		SLAM §			
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	I Mohammad	A. Islamic holy city			
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:	3 Mosque	C. Founder of Islam			
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	9 pillars I. One who practices the religion of Islam				
	10 imam	J. Islamic holy book			
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r		STATEMENT	T	F	
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19. Muslims believe in Predestination.

20. Muslims wash much of their body prior to praying.

MULTIPLE CHOICE	Choose the best	answer.	······································
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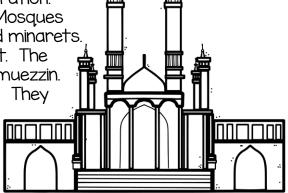
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fountain or pool allows people to wash (wudu). Muslims wash their hands, mouth, throat, nose, ears, feet, and arms up to their elbows. This wash symbolizes



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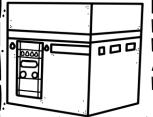
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