



Key Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
Allah	The eternal creator and 'sustainer' of the universe. The perfect, singular, immortal and infinite God.
Guru	Someone who enlightens others and shows others the right way to live.
Hajj	A pilgrimage made to Ka'aba, the House of God', in the sacred city of Mecca/Makkah in Saudi Arabia.
Imam	Arabic word for the leader of a Mosque or Muslim Community.
Salah	The Arabic term for a ritual prayer which is obligatory for Muslims to perform daily.
Sawm	The Arabic term used to describe the act of Fasting.
Shahadah	A Declaration of Faith. The Islamic creed and oath.
Wudu	The Islamic process of cleansing parts of the body – a ritual ablution.
Zakah	The fair distribution of wealth through charitable giving.

Key point: There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.

The First Pillar - The Shahadah

- The **Shahadah** is the first pillar of Islam
- It is the belief that there is only one God and that Muhammad is his messenger.
- It is the Muslim declaration of Faith in **Allah**.
- It is the pillar on which all other pillars are based.
- Muslims say The Shahadah many times during their lives. In particular they will:
 - Repeat it several times a day.
 - Whisper it into the ear of a new born baby.
 - Teach to their children as soon as they are old enough to learn it.
 - Hope that it will be the last words to cross their lips before death.



The Second Pillar - Salah

- It is every Muslim's duty to pray to **Allah** five times a day.
- Muslims often stand shoulder to shoulder when praying to show equality of humans.
- Salah can take place in any public place as long as;
 - The process starts with **wudu**.
 - The chosen place is clean
- All prayer mats have a directional arch which is pointed towards Mecca/Makkah.





The Five Pillars are the practices which Muslims are obligated to fulfil within their lifetime.

The Third Pillar - Zakah

- Any Muslim who is financially able, must pay to support people who are poor or needy.
- Zakah** should be given once a year.
- Every Muslim must give 2.5% of their surplus wealth to **Zakah**.
- Zakah** is a test of honesty.
- It is said that a Muslim cannot live happily if he does not pay Zakah.



The Fourth Pillar - Sawm

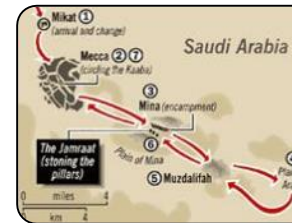
Muslims practice fasting each year during Ramadan. They fast each day until sunset. By fasting, they develop sympathy for suffering. Fasting also demonstrates discipline and obedience to Allah.

At sunset, families get together to eat dates and drink water as this is what Muhammad recommended.



The Fifth Pillar - Hajj

- Muslims journey to Mecca/Makkah to take part in a ceremony which lasts three days.
- Hajj takes place during the month of Ramadan.
- Hajj demonstrates that everyone is equal in Allah's eyes.
- Everyone wears the same clothes during the ceremony.
- During the ceremony, thousands walk around the Ka'aba.
- Everyone in the group will complete each of the three stages together which again show that all Muslims are equal.



Extending your learning:

- Research Declarations of Faith for two other religions.
- Which of the five pillars do you think is the most important? Explain your thinking.
- Why do you think these five practices are called Pillars?
- Key Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jb8Yk8LaUoc>