

What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?

So far this year we have looked at Christianity and Hinduism (and a little of Judaism). This term we are looking at Islam. As there is a bit of information in this Guide, we have colour coded sections together, e.g. all green sections relate to Salah.

Background information on Islam

Islam is the second largest religion in the world after Christianity, with approximately 1.8 billion Muslims worldwide. Although its roots go back further, the date of creation is typically the 7th Century – this makes it the youngest of the major world religions.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpdtbkb/articles/zrxxgwx>

- The word 'Islam' means 'submission to the will of God'.
- Muslims worship one, all-knowing God, who in Arabic is known as **Allah**.
- Islam teaches that Allah's word was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) through the angel Gabriel.
 - pbuh = peace be upon him – this indicates respect to the final Prophet
 - Muhammad (pbuh) may sometimes be spelt "Mohammed" or "Mohammad"
- Muslims believe several prophets were sent to teach Allah's law. They respect some of the same prophets from Judaism and Christianity, including Abraham, Moses, Noah and Jesus.
- Muslims worship in places called **mosques**.
- The **Qur'an** is the major holy text of Islam. The **Hadith** is another important book.
- Followers worship Allah by praying and reciting the Qur'an. They believe there will be a Day of Judgement and life after death.



The Five Pillars of Islam

The Five Pillars of Islam are essential to the daily lives of Muslims. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be looking at how each of them impacts on their lives.

The pillars of Islam provide **structure** for Islamic daily life – Islam is like a house that is held up by five strong pillars with central themes of purification and sharing with others. Muslims must not only believe in the five pillars, but **ACT** upon their beliefs.

Watch this video to find out more about Islam and the 5 Pillars:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5c9-1zxPeA&list=PLcvEcrcF_9zJxDHG9JtcCmiAgwVFRW3uK&index=13

Shahadah: A belief to shout and whisper

The Shahadah (also spelled Shahada) is the first pillar of Islam. It stands for the belief and declaration in one God (Allah). Translated, the Shahadah says:

"I witness that there is no other god but Allah, and Muhammad is the prophet of Allah."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zdnrsr82>

The following are times when the Shahadah are recited or heard at:

- Adhan – a prayer in a newborn's baby first ear (this is the first thing a baby hears)
- Call to prayer and by all Muslims performing the daily ritual prayer or **Salah / Salat**
- Aqiqah – a ceremony which takes place after a baby is born to celebrate the new life and welcome the baby to the family
- The moment of death

YOUR TASK:

How might hearing the Shahadah every day affect the life of a Muslim? Explain fully, using examples if you can.

Exploring how Muslims pray: Salah

The second pillar of Islam is **Salah** which refers to prayer (may be spelt **Salat**).

Muslims are expected to pray **5 times a day** (there is a table showing the names, when and the number of rak'ah is expected of each prayer).

When Muslims pray, they perform a series of physical actions. Each set of physical actions is known as a **rak'ah**. A different number of rak'ah are completed during each daily prayer.

Watch these videos to see someone talk through the prayer and what the positions mean. This will help you with your task for Salah.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks2-my-life-my-religion-prayer-in-islam/zjndxyc>

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/muslim-prayer>

Why do Muslims fast?: Sawm




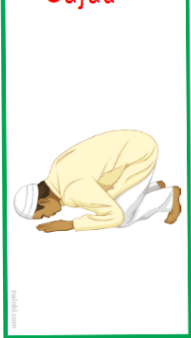

Sawm is the fourth pillar and calls for Muslims to fast. The main fasting period occurs during the month of Ramadan. Fasting helps Muslims to concentrate their mind on what it means to be a Muslim and obey the command of Allah. It helps to build discipline into their lives.

Watch this video and listen out for the answers to these important questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFU9CboD6lo>

1. What is fasting?
2. Why do Muslims fast?
3. When do they fast? How long for?
4. When can Muslims eat during Ramadan?
5. When is Ramadan?
6. Why is Ramadan important?
7. What may Muslims do whilst fasting?
8. Ramadan ends with a festival known as what?
9. What is celebrated during the festival?

Summary of the Rak'ah

Niyya	Qiyaam	Ruku	Sujud	Du'a
				
State their intention – prayer is meaningful and not just routine. Raises hands to their ears and praises Allah, saying 'God is great'	Fold arms and recite the first sunah of the Qur'an. Praising Allah and asking Him to keep Muslims on the 'straight path'.	Bows to show respect to God. Stand up and praise Allah again.	Prostrating themselves on the floor to show obedience to Allah. Muslims return to their knees and perform the sujud again. They stand up and praise God – THIS IS THE END OF ONE RAK'AH.	FINAL RAK'AH OF PRAYER: remain on their knees and say Du'a. Turn their heads from left to right, wishing peace to those around them. Addresses angels that surround them.


Prayer	Time	Number of Rak'ah
Fajr	Between dawn and sunrise	Two
Zuhr	Just after midday	Four
Asr	Late afternoon but before sunset	Four
Maghrib	Between sunset and dusk	Three
Isha	At night	Four

Example poster

SUJUD

I only have my palms, knees, forehead and nose touching the ground. I'm doing this I am showing obedience towards Allah.

4th position



Sujud is the last position in a set of Rak'ahs. It follows from Muslims bowing to show respect.

YOUR TASK (example above)

Create a poster illustrating one of the rak'ahs (prayer positions). You must include: a **thought bubble** suggesting what a Muslim might be thinking when they are in this position; what you think the position might mean (why do they do it?) and the position that comes before or after it.

YOUR TASK

This year, the festival which ends Ramadan starts on the 23rd May and ends on 24th May.

You are going to make an **Eid-ul-Fitr** card to give to someone who has successfully completed Ramadan.

Inside your card you **MUST**:

- Congratulate the person on completing Ramadan
- Talk about how long they have fasted for
- Remind them why fasting is important
- Suggest what they may have achieved through completing it

Use the pictures of Eid-ul-Fitr cards to help design the outside of your card.

