

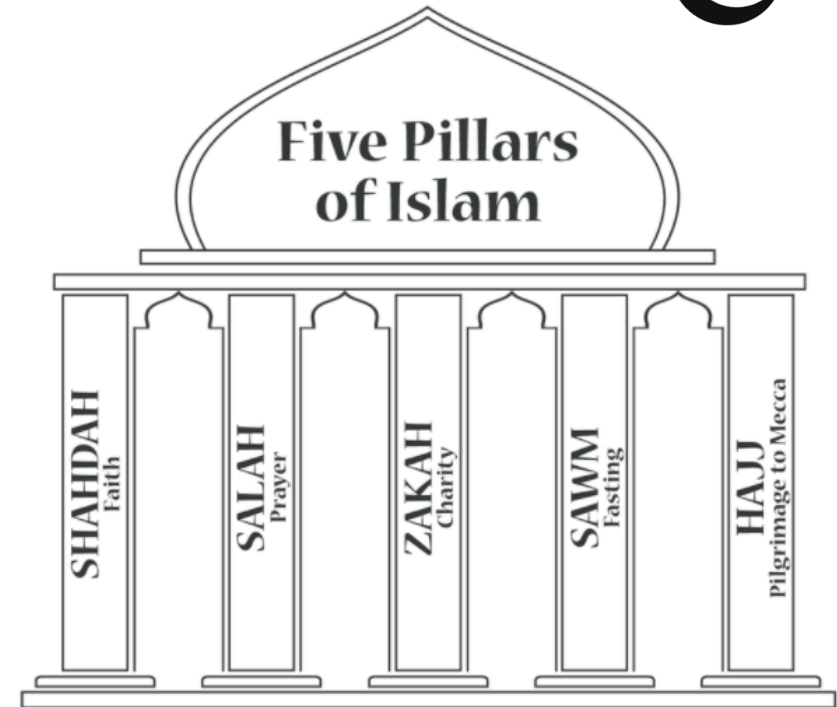


Islam



Muslims believe that there is only one God called Allah. They believe Allah is the only ruler of the universe. Salah which is one of the five pillars means that Muslims pray five times a day.

The Muslim holy book is called the **Qu'ran**. Muslims believe that it is a record of the exact words that Allah said.



Key Vocabulary

Muslim	A follower of the religion of Islam.
Allah	The Arabic name that Muslims use for God.
Five Pillars of Islam	The five things that Muslims are expected to do.
Prophet	Special messengers sent from Allah.
Muhammad	The last prophet and the key prophet in Islam.
mosque	Muslim place of worship
Ramadan	The ninth month of the Islamic calendar in which they fast.



Mecca is an important place to Muslims. It is where Muhammad was born and the direction that Muslims face when they pray five times a day. Muslims are expected to make a pilgrimage to Mecca once in their lifetime.

The end of Ramadan is marked by a big celebration called '**Eid ul-Fitr**'. Muslims are not only celebrating the end of fasting, but thanking Allah for the strength he gave them throughout the previous month.

Mosques hold special services and a special meal is eaten during the daytime (the first daytime meal for a month). During Eid ul-Fitr Muslims dress in their finest clothes, give gifts to children and spend time with their friends and family. Muslims will also give money to charity at Eid.