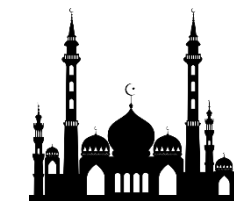





# Summer 1 / 2 What do you need to know about Islam?

Prints automatically on  
A3



## How did Islam begin?

**Where?** Makkah, in Saudi Arabia. 

**When?** 7<sup>th</sup> century.

**Who?** Muhammad received a message from God (Allah).

**Why?** Muhammad was a good and thoughtful man who did not like some of the bad ways that people in his home city of Makkah behaved. He did not like the idea of worshipping many different gods.

**How?** The Angel Jibril visited him when he was praying in a cave. It took 22 years to deliver the whole message and Muhammad couldn't read or write, so he had to learn it off by heart!

**What?** The message was written down by Muhammad's followers and became the Qur'an, which is the Muslim holy book.



**The Qur'an** is the holy book of Islam.

Muslims believe it is word for word the exact message that the Angel Jibril delivered to Muhammad all those years ago. No words have ever been changed because they are the words of Allah.

Altogether, there are 114 chapters, called **surahs** in the Qur'an and they are arranged in size order, from longest to shortest.

Muslims try to read the Qur'an in the original Arabic language that Muhammad remembered it in. Some Muslims try to learn it all off by heart as Muhammad did. People who can do this get the special title, **hafiz**.

Muslims show great respect to the Qur'an. They will wash before they touch it and use a special stand when they read it so it stays in good condition. When it is not being used, it is covered up and kept in the highest place in the room or house, to show it is more important than anything else.

## What happened next?

Some people listened to Muhammad's message from Allah and became his followers. But the citizens of Makkah did not like the way Muhammad and his followers wanted to change their behaviour. Muhammad and his followers had to leave the city and move to the nearby town of Madinah. They could live openly there as Muslims. This event is known as the **hijra** and is so important to Muslims that they start counting their years from the year that it happened.

Eventually, Muhammad and his followers went back to live in Makkah. They had to fight in wars against people who did not like their religious ways and teachings but Makkah became their main city and the centre of the Islamic faith.

## What do Muslims believe about Allah?

- Allah is the Muslim name for God. It literally means 'The One'.
- Muslims believe there is only one God who should be worshipped and this is Allah.
- They believe he created the world and everything in it.
- They think about Allah using 99 different names which tell them something about what he is like. For example, The King, The Merciful, The Protector, The All-Knowing, The Just, The Watchful, The Greatest.

1

99

## Why do Muslims respect Muhammad?

- He was a good man who did the right thing.
- Allah chose him to be his Prophet, or Messenger.
- He remembered the whole of Allah's message.
- He passed on the message to other people and helped to spread Islam.
- He was the first leader of Muslims.
- When Muslims say or write Muhammad's name, they add 'peace be upon him' to show their great respect for him.

## How does Muhammad influence Muslims today?

- Some people try to learn the Qur'an off by heart just like Muhammad did. If they are successful they get a special title 'Hafiz'.
- Muslims learn about the things Muhammad did and said (this is called the Sunnah) so that they can be like him.
- Muhammad didn't give up learning the Qur'an even though he had a big challenge (not being able to read/ write). Muslims try to show this dedication and commitment in everything they do.

# THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

These are the duties of Islam, the religion of Muslims.



<p>A statement of what Muslims <b>always</b> believe</p> <p>"I bear witness that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger".</p> <p>Saying this publicly and meaning it is all it takes to become a Muslim!</p>	<p>Praying <b>five times per day</b>. Muslims wash before prayer, they face Makkah when they pray and they use a prayer mat. Prayers involve saying special words and bowing and kneeling before Allah.</p>	<p><b>For the whole of the month of Ramadan</b>, Muslims who are fit and well go without food and drink during daylight hours. This strengthens their self-control and shows their submission to Allah.</p>	<p><b>Once a year</b>, Muslims must give 2.5% of their spare money or savings to good causes which include the poor and needy, travellers, prisoners and those who have just become Muslim.</p>	<p><b>Once in their lifetime</b>, Muslims who are able to must travel to Makkah to visit the places closest to Allah, where their religion began. They perform actions which remind them of the stories of Ibrahim who was the first man to believe there is just one God.</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The Five Pillars help Muslim to feel connected with Allah because they are thinking about him and doing his will. They feel connected to each other because they know they are all believing and doing the same things.

## What happens when a baby is born into a Muslim family?

- The first words a new baby will hear are the Adhan (call to prayer), whispered into their right ear by their father.
- Something sweet, such as honey or dates, is rubbed onto their tongue or gums.
- When they are seven days old, their hair is shaved off and weighed. The equivalent to this weight in silver is given to the poor. Meat is shared with family and friends. This is called **aqeeqah**.
- Baby boys are circumcised.

## What happens at a Muslim wedding?

- Muslims are encouraged to marry and bring up a family. The Qur'an says, "And we created you in pairs", which tells Muslims that Allah wants them to marry.
- There are lots of different styles of Muslim wedding, which depends on where the couple is from.
- A Muslim wedding ceremony is called a **nikkah**.
- Brides receive a gift of money or property from their future husband before the wedding, which is theirs to keep. This is called **mahr**.
- The wedding must take place in front of witnesses and must have a religious element, such as prayers and reading from the Qur'an.
- Marriage is seen as a contract between the bride and groom and they must agree to support each other and try to make each other happy.

## ISLAM - LITERACY LIFELINE

Allah	The Muslim name for God. It means 'the One'
Hajj	Pilgrimage to Makkah once in a lifetime, one of the five pillars of Islam
Makkah	The place where Islam began and where Muslims go on pilgrimage
mosque	Muslim place of worship
Muhammad	The Prophet or messenger chosen by Allah to receive his message. The first leader of Islam
Muslim	The name for people who belong to the religion of Islam.
Qur'an	The Muslim holy book, believed to be the exact words of Allah given to Muhammad.
salah	Praying five times per day, one of the five pillars of Islam
sawm	Fasting during the month of Ramadan, one of the five pillars of Islam
zakah	Giving 2.5% of your wealth to good causes, one of the five pillars of Islam



- |         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| belief  | people    |
| believe | prayer    |
| Heaven  | religion  |
| holy    | religious |
| miracle | worship   |

