

A Journey into Islam: Beliefs and Traditions

Learning objective: To understand the core beliefs and practices of Islam, including the Five Pillars and the significance of the Mosque.

Read the passage carefully about the faith of Islam, then answer the questions that follow using evidence from the text.

Islam is a major world religion followed by over a billion people, known as Muslims. They believe in one God, called Allah, and follow the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. Their holy book is the Qur'an, which is treated with great respect. A central part of life for many Muslims is following the 'Five Pillars of Islam'. These are five duties that help guide a person's life: faith, prayer (Salah), charity, fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, and the pilgrimage to Makkah.

Many Muslims visit a mosque for communal prayers. A mosque is a place of peace and reflection, often featuring beautiful geometric patterns and a minaret, which is a tall tower. Inside, there are no statues or pictures of people; instead, artists use intricate calligraphy to write verses from the Qur'an. Before entering the prayer hall, Muslims perform a ritual washing called wudu to ensure they are clean and focused. By practising these traditions, Muslims aim to show devotion to Allah and kindness towards their community, reflecting the importance of living a life of faith, discipline, and charity every day.

Word bank: Allah · Muslim · Mosque · Qur'an · Five Pillars · Ramadan · Pilgrimage · Salah

1. Name two of the 'Five Pillars of Islam' mentioned in the text. (2 marks)

2. What is the purpose of performing 'wudu' before entering the prayer hall? (2 marks)

3. Why might a mosque not contain pictures or statues of people? (3 marks)

4. Based on the text, why is calligraphy important within the design of a mosque? (3 marks)

5. Why do you think it is important for a community to have a shared space like a mosque? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a peaceful mosque building. Include a tall minaret and decorate the walls with your own version of beautiful, intricate geometric patterns or patterns inspired by calligraphy.



Extension challenge: Ellie the elephant is learning about history and culture. Research the meaning of the word 'calligraphy'. Why is it considered a special art form in Islamic history and how does it differ from the handwriting you use in your school books?