

## A Journey into Islamic Traditions with Ellie

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

Read the text carefully with Ellie the elephant. Use your memory to answer the questions below, ensuring you provide reasons for your answers where required.

Ellie the elephant loves visiting the local community center to learn about different faiths. Today, she is exploring Islam. Muslims believe in one God, Allah, and follow the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Their holy book is the Qur'an, which is treated with great respect. A central part of a Muslim's life is the Five Pillars. These are five duties that help Muslims focus on their faith. They include Shahadah, the declaration of belief; Salah, which involves praying five times a day; and Zakat, the act of giving money to those in need. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims practice Sawm, which is fasting from dawn until sunset to show self-discipline. Finally, many hope to complete the Hajj, a pilgrimage to the sacred city of Makkah. Muslims often gather at a Mosque to pray together. Inside, there are no statues or pictures of people; instead, you will see beautiful, intricate geometric patterns on the walls. These patterns represent the infinite nature of God's creation, reminding everyone of the beauty and order found within the universe.

*Word bank: Mosque · Salah · Qur'an · Zakat · Sawm · Hajj · Shahadah*

**1. Identify two of the Five Pillars mentioned in the passage. (2 marks) (2 marks)**

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**2. Where do Muslims gather to pray, and what is a notable feature of the interior decoration? (2 marks) (2 marks)**

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**3. Explain why Muslims might choose to give to charity (Zakat) as part of their daily life. (2 marks) (2 marks)**

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**4. What might happen if a person did not practice Sawm during Ramadan? (2 marks) (2 marks)**

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**5. Do you think the use of geometric patterns in a Mosque is an effective way to represent faith? Justify your answer. (3 marks) (3 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a beautiful, intricate geometric pattern like the ones Ellie saw on the walls of the Mosque, using symmetry and repeating shapes.



*Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the practice of fasting (Sawm) with the concept of charity (Zakat). How do both actions help a person show devotion to their faith? Justify your comparison with examples from the text.*