

# The Five Pillars of Islam



## Learning Objectives

- To explain the importance of the Five Pillars of Islam to Muslims.
- To describe the Five Pillars of Islam.
- To know the names of the Five Pillars of Islam.



# KEY WORDS

Shahadah

RE

Zakat

RE

Sawm

RE

Salat

RE



# THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

Shahadah  
(Statement of faith)

Zakat  
(Giving to charity)

Why do you think they are called the pillars of Islam?

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Hajj  
(Pilgrimage)

Sawm  
(Fasting)

Salat  
(Prayer)





# Shahadah (Statement of faith)

Islam has a statement that all Muslims must believe and live by.



There is no god but Allah,  
Muhammad is the messenger  
of God. (Shahadah in English)



# Salat (Prayer)

Prayer is communication with God. The prayers are 1400 years old and the words and movements have great importance. This time is an opportunity to focus exclusively on God.



Muslims pray 5 times a day and always facing Makah. This timetable of prayer sets the rhythm of the day: dawn, midday, late afternoon, just after sunset and between sunset and midnight



# Zakat (charity)

Money is seen as something that should be used for good purposes. Muslims must give a percentage of their money to charity, much like Christians who tithe.



Apart from helping others, Zakat represents the idea that our things come as a gift from God, and therefore should be shared. It also shows self discipline and obedience to God.



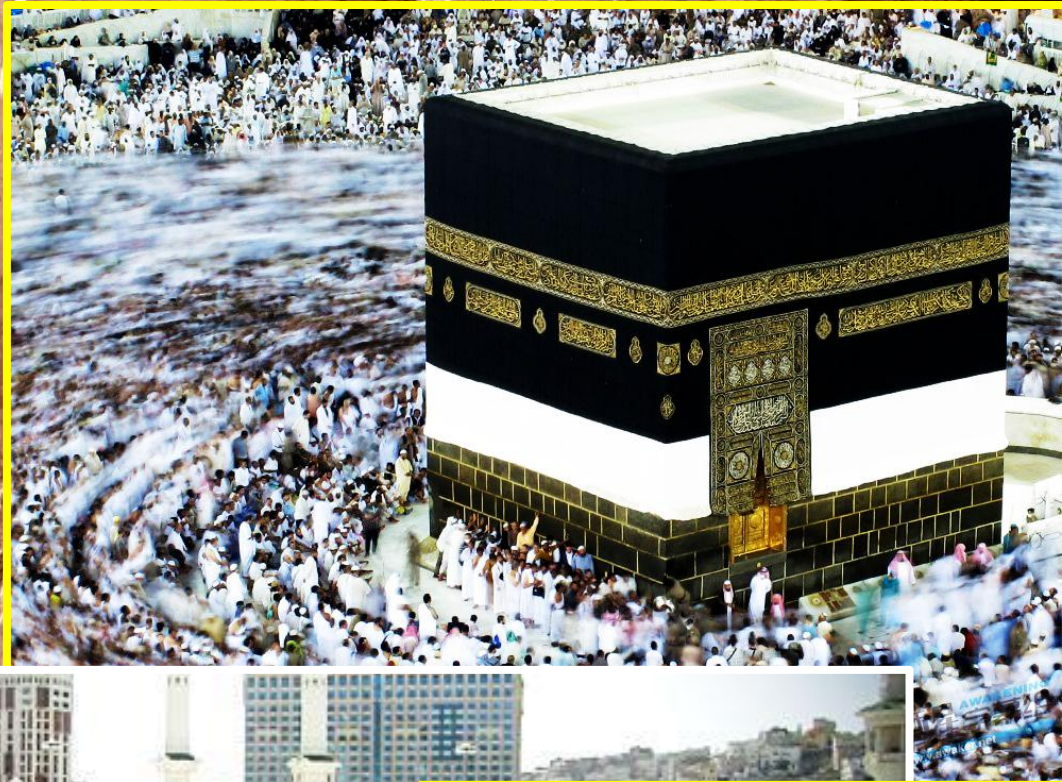
**Sawm**  
(Fasting)



Muslims choose to not eat during daylight hours for the month of Ramadan. This shows sacrifice and commitment, and enables Muslims to feel closer to Allah.



# Hajj (Pilgrimage)



Hajj is a pilgrimage that Muslims must go on before they die as it is the 5<sup>th</sup> and final pillar. Makah is in one of the holiest Muslim places, in Saudi Arabia. They travel to see and touch the Ka'bah. It is believed to be the House of God, and Muslims all over the world face it during prayer.



## Exercise 1

Choose one of the 5 pillars of Islam that you think would be the hardest to follow.

On a whole page of your exercise books create a poster that explains something about that rule. It must be informative and you must explain your work.

For example, if you think fasting would be the hardest then you could do a no eating, it's Ramadan sign, along with how you think it would be to go without food. What would you do for your beliefs?





## Exercise 2

Answer the following questions. You could do more research on the pillars to help you if you wish.

**Shahadah:** What beliefs do you have? List three of them.

**Salat:** Why do people pray? Give three reasons.

**Zakat:** Have you ever given money to charity/the poor? Should everybody give money? Why/Why not?

**Sawm:** Do you think it is right for us to deny ourselves of things we want? How might this help us?

**Hajj:** Think of a special place and time (holiday, Christmas, football match) etc. Why was it special? How did it make you feel? How might this be similar to Muslims being at the Ka'bah?

