

Year 7 RE: Spring: Islam: History and Beliefs

- Islam is the second –largest** and fastest growing religion in the world. It is a **monotheistic** faith that began in Arabia in the lifetime of the **prophet Muhammad** who was born in Mecca in 570 CE. Islam means '**submission**' and Muslim means 'one who submits to God'.
- Muslims believe that Muhammad received **revelations** over 23 years from God about how people should live. The first revelation was received from the angel Jibril in 610 CE while Muhammad was praying in a cave. This event is known as the **Night of Power**. The revelations received by Muhammad were memorised by his follower and recorded in a book called the Qur'an after his death.
- Muhammad was a religious and political leader as well as a warrior who ruled first over **Medina and then Mecca**. He fought against **persecution** of early Muslims and by the end of his life was the most influential man in the Arabian peninsula. He gained wide recognition as a prophet and brought previously warring tribes under Islamic rule.
- After Muhammad's death, Islam continued to spread under the rule of the **caliphs**, and a large Caliphate (empire) was established. However, there was disagreement amongst Muslims over who should succeed Muhammad as leader, which caused the religion to split into two groups: **Sunni Muslims and Shi'a Muslims**.
- Tawhid** – the belief in one God – is the most important Islamic belief. Anything that goes against tawhid is considered shirk. Muslims often describe God using 99 names, but ultimately Muslims believe that God is beyond anything that humans can describe or imagine.
- Muslims believe that Muhammad was the final prophet sent by God, but they believe God also revealed himself to earlier prophets mentioned in Jewish and Christian scriptures, like Adam, Abraham and Moses. Muslims believe that Jesus was a prophet, but think that viewing him as the Son of God is shirk.
- Muslims believe that there will be a Day of Judgement, when God will send people to paradise (Jannah) or hell (Jahannam) depending on their faith and deeds.



The Five Pillars	Five important acts of worship in a Muslim's life, which form the basis of the faith.
Shahada	The Muslim declaration of faith – there is no god but God, and Muhammad is his messenger.
Salah	Prayers that a Muslim must perform five times a day.
Zakat	The act of giving 2.5% of your savings to charity.
Sawm	Fasting during the month of Ramadan which is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar.
Hajj	A pilgrimage to Mecca. Those who complete it are called hajji (men) or hajja (women).
Ummah	The global community of Muslims.
Adhan	The call to prayer.
Muezzin	A person responsible for performing the adhan in a mosque.
Minaret	A tower on a mosque.
Mihrab	An alcove in a mosque showing the direction of Mecca.
Minbar	A platform in a mosque from which the imam delivers his sermon.
Wudu	Ritual washing before prayer.
Eid ul-Fitr	A three-day celebration after Ramadan.
Eid ul-Adha	A four day celebration in the final month of the Islamic year.
Ihram	The state of holiness or purity entered into by pilgrims before beginning hajj.
Ka'aba	A holy site in Mecca which Muhammad dedicated to God after destroying its 360 idols.
Hadith	The reported sayings of Muhammad, heard by people during his life and written down in the centuries after his death.

Vocabulary

Islam	The second largest and fastest growing religion in the world. It is currently followed by <u>1.6 billion</u> people. It literally means submission.
Muslim	A follower of the teachings of the prophet Muhammad. It literally means 'one who submits to God'.
Monotheism	Belief in one God. The Arabic word for God is 'Allah'.
Prophet	A messenger sent from God.
Revelation	A message revealed by God to humans.
Qur'an	The holy book of Islam, which Muslims believe contains the word of God; it literally means 'recitation.'
Mosque	The place of worship for Muslims. It literally means 'place of prostration.' The Arabic word for mosque is 'masjid'.
Mecca	A city in present-day Saudi Arabia; Muhammad was born here In 570 CE.
Medina	One of the main cities in Arabia at the time of Muhammad (originally called Yathrib).
Polytheism	Belief in many gods. Muhammad was born into a polytheistic tribe called the Quraysh.
The Night of Power	The night in 610 CE on which the angel Jibril appeared to Muhammad and he received his first revelation from God.
The Night Journey	Muhammad's journey between Mecca and Jerusalem on a winged horse and ascension to the heavens in 620 CE.
Hijrah	The emigration of Muhammad and his followers to Yathrib (Medina) in 622 CE.
Constitution of Medina	The laws passed by Muhammad in Yathrib when he and his followers first settled there.
Idol	A picture of object that people worship as part of their religion.
Ka'aba	A holy site in Mecca which Muhammad dedicated to God after destroying its 360 idols.
Caliph	The Arabic word for the leader of the whole Muslim community after the death of Muhammad; it literally means 'successor'.

Caliphate	The Islamic community ruled over by the caliph.
Shi'a	Muslims who believe that Ali and his descendants should have succeeded Muhammad as leaders of Islam.
Sunni	The majority (about 85%) of Muslims who believe that the 'Rightly Guided Caliphs' (first four caliphs) were the rightful successors of Muhammad.
Surah	A chapter of the Qur'an; there are 114 surahs in total.
Hafiz	A man who has memorised the Qur'an. A woman is called a hafiza.
99 names of God	99 characteristics of God used by Muslims to try and describe what God is like.
Tawhid	Belief in the oneness of God.
Shirk	The Arabic word for the sin of worshipping anything other than God.
Day of Judgement	A day when all people's faith and deeds will be judged by God and they will go to Jannah (paradise or heaven) or Jahannam (hell).

People

Muhammad	Believed to be the final prophet who received God's full revelation. He lived from 570-632 CE. Muslims write PBUH after his name to show respect.
Amina	Muhammad's mother.
Abdullah	Muhammad's father.
Abu Talib	Muhammad's uncle.
Khadija	A wealthy businesswoman and widow who became Muhammad's wife when she was 40 and was also the first to believe his message after the Night of Power.
The caliphs	Abu Bakr (632-634), Umar (634-44), Uthman (644-56) and Ali who was Muhammad's cousin and nephew (656-61) Ali was succeeded by Muawiya.
Fatima	Muhammad's daughter, who married Ali.
Hussein	Ali's son, who was killed in the battle of Karbala.
The prophets	The Qur'an names 25 including Adam, Musa, Ibrahim, and Isa.