

ISLAM – YEAR 5

BELIEFS/ FESTIVALS – RAMADAN AND PILGRIMAGE



LO: SPECIAL TIMES.

There are special occasions in everyone's life, times when something happens which is different from normal life, times when you do something special, are with people you don't often see or a time of making a special effort for some reason.



What special times can you recall?

LEARNING FOCUS: Ramadan.



Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and the holiest month in Islam.

Ramadan



The ninth month in the Muslim calendar (which is different from the one used in the UK), is called Ramadan. It is the month when Allah first gave his message to Muhammad. Muslims commemorate this special event by fasting for the whole month of Ramadan. If you are very old or very young, or unwell you do not have to fast. Children are introduced to it gradually. It means that Muslims do not eat or drink during daylight hours. It does not just mean not eating or drinking but also trying to do good deeds too, to spend more time praying and thinking about Allah.



It also helps Muslims to share the experience of many people in the world who do not have enough to eat. It is hard for Muslim children at school where there are non-Muslims and everyone is eating lunch and having snacks. When it is night time Muslims first eat some dates and then have meal together. Sometimes the local Mosque puts on meals.





Discussion Questions

- How do you think fasting helps Muslims?
- What would you find most difficult about Ramadan?
- Ramadan happens at different times of the year, which would you prefer summer or winter and why?

Watch the short video clip: Use the following link
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z434wmn>

Your Task:

Make a fruit drink, many Muslims particularly in hot countries break their fast with a fruit drink.

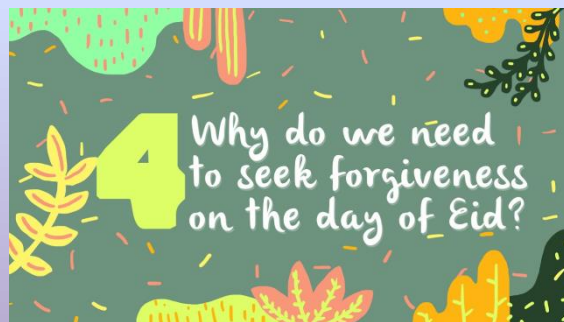
LEARNING FOCUS: Eid-ul-Fitr (Id-ul-Fitr).



Eid-ul-Fitr



The first day of the month after Ramadan is called: Eid-ul-Fitr, which means 'festival of fast-breaking', it starts when there is a new moon. The Islamic calendar is based on the moon. Muslims are not only celebrating the end of fasting, but thanking Allah for the help and strength that he gave them throughout the Ramadan to help them practise self-control. Eid is also a time of forgiveness, and making amends. At Eid it is expected that Muslims will give a set amount of money to charity to be used to help poor people buy new clothes and food so they too can celebrate.



Eid-ul-Fitr

Eid is a time when family and friends get together, it lasts for 3 days. Everyone puts on their best clothes and people often buy new clothes. They go to the Mosque for special prayers and come together for a feast. Eid-ul-Fitr is a time for celebrating with good food and presents for children, and giving to charity. Special foods eaten on this day are lamb and sweet dishes. Presents are given and some people have fireworks and decorate their homes.





The story of Abdullah during Ramadan

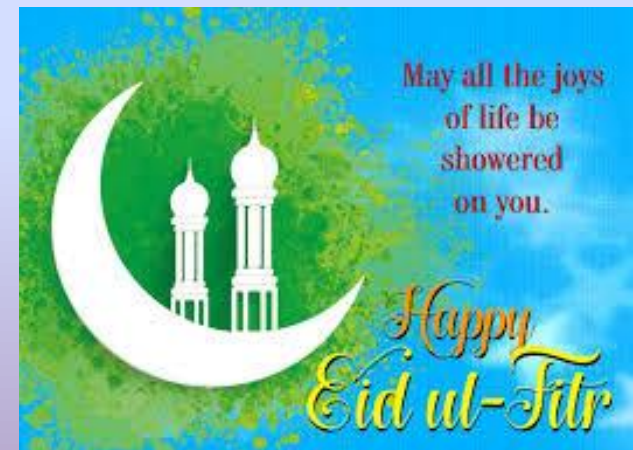
Discussion Questions

- How do you Muslims feel when they celebrate iEid-ul-Fitr?
- What activity links Eid-ul-Fitr with Ramadan?
- Why is Eid a good opportunity for Muslims to renew their faith?
- What do Muslims thank Allah for?

Watch the short video clip: Use the following link
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p011410z>

Your Task:

Make an Eid-ul-Fitr card



LEARNING FOCUS: Pilgrimage to Makkah.



Pilgrimage to Makkah.

Every year during the month of Hijja (that is ahul-hijja, 2 months after Ramadan), some Muslims will make a pilgrimage to Makkah. All Muslims are expected if possible to make a pilgrimage to Makkah at least once in their life time.

First of all there is day of preparation when the pilgrims have a thorough bath. Then all the male pilgrims put on the ihram, that is two seamless white sheets one of which covers the head. Special shoes are worn with no back to them. Women cover their body except for hands, face and feet. The dress is a symbol of peace, self-denial and obedience to Allah, everyone wears the same as everyone is equal before Allah.



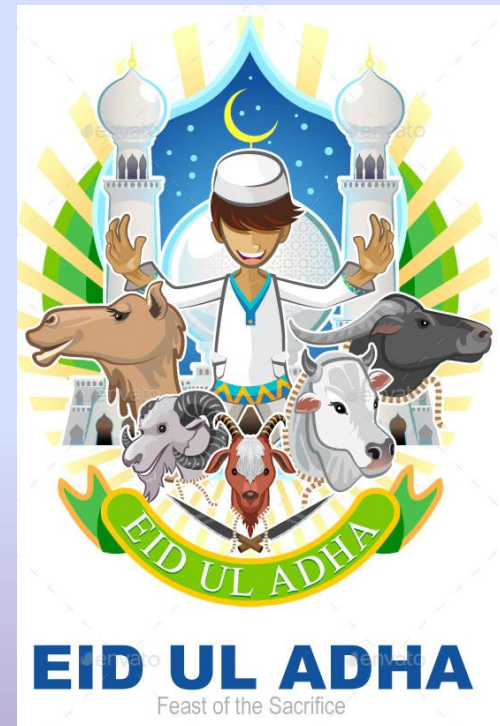
There are several stages of the pilgrimage, spread over a few days. The first is the day of preparation, which is not included in the actual Hajj. On this day pilgrims walk seven times round the holy house known as the Ka'bah, which Muslims believe Ibrahim built. As the pilgrims walk, they say the following prayer: Here I am at your service, O God, here I am!

Then they go to Mina, three miles (4.8km) from Makkah and say prayers in the Mosque there. On the second day, stage four; the pilgrims journey to Arafat to pray.

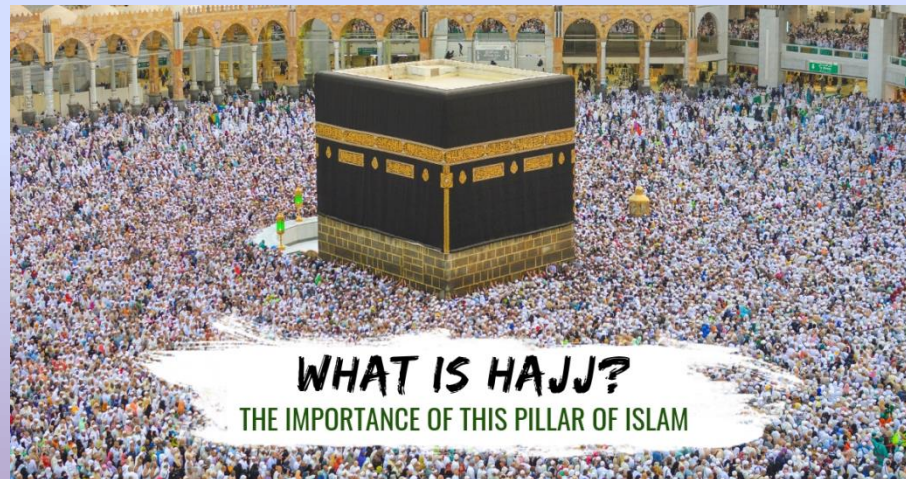
This was where Ibrahim took Isma'il for sacrifice and where Muhammad preached his last sermon. This is the main part of the Hajj. They then travel to Muzdalifa, five miles (8km) away and spend the night there.



Finally pilgrims collect pebbles at Muzdalifa, this is stage five. They return to Mina where they throw the pebbles at three pillars to remember that 'Ibrahim and Isma'il threw stones in their rejection of the devil. Finally the pilgrims return to Mecca, for the feast of Id ul-Adha. A goat or sheep is sacrificed. The pilgrims circle the Ka'ba again.



Hajj helps pilgrims to feel a sense of community, of belonging to Islam, of everyone working together. Everyone who completes this pilgrimage may add the word Hajji to their name or Hajjah if they are a woman pilgrim. When they return home from this very special event in their lives, they often have a celebration with their friends and relations. At the end of Hajj there is a symbolic cutting of hair and nails to show a return to everyday life. There are three days of relaxation before they return home, often with souvenirs of their pilgrimage.





A trip to Makkah

Watch the short video clip: Use the following link

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z4yr87h>

Discussion Questions

- How is Hajj like our journey through life?
- Why do pilgrims wear a special garment?
- What does this symbolise?
- Why Muslims would what to celebrate on their return from Hajj?
- How do you think a pilgrim feel when they return?
- What might they tell other people about their experience?
- How do you think it might affect their belief ?

Your Task:

List what Muslim pilgrims might have brought back with them from the Hajj. Explain what the visit will mean in their daily lives in the future.

Respect /Reflect

Think



How do Muslims come closer to Allah through fasting and going on pilgrimage?