

Topic	Knowledge
Origins	<p>* Muslims believe there is ONE God, it is a monotheistic religion, they can learn about him by reading their holy book called the Quran, this guides them on how to live a good life by following the Five Pillars of Islam, these are certain ACTS a Muslim must carry out.</p> <p>* Islam is a peaceful religion with 1.8 billion followers worldwide, they come together to worship in a Mosque</p> <p>* They have great respect for The Prophet Mohammed who started Islam – he was Allah’s messenger and helped to spread the word of God.</p> <p>* Mohammed was born in 570AD in Makkah – where the Kaaba an important temple is. It wasn’t a very nice place to live in – it was ruled by bullies and people worshiped so many Gods. Sadly Mohammed's parents died and he was orphaned but despite this he became a shepherd then business man. One day when he was in a cave he saw an angel and was given the Quran and so he spend the rest of his life teaching about Allah.</p>
Mosques	<p>* The mosque is a place to gather for prayers, to study and to celebrate festivals. It can also be used as a school and community centre.</p> <p>* Mosques all over the world share a number of similar features; they often have a minaret and a dome, sometimes they are surrounded by an arcade or have a school called a Madrasa. Muslims do not have to perform the Salat in a mosque except on Friday at mid-day.</p> <p>* Before entering a mosque, Muslims must remove their shoes. It is normal for men and women to pray in different areas of the mosque. There are no priests in Islam, but most mosques have an Imam.</p> <p>* The simplest mosque would be a prayer room with a wall marked indicating the direction of Mecca, which Muslims should face when praying.</p>
The Five Pillars	<p>* The Five Pillars of Islam are the five acts that every Muslim must do to live a good and responsible life, they are:</p> <p>Shahadah: "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger." Reciting this statement three times in front of witnesses is all that anyone need do to become a Muslim. A Muslim is expected to recite this statement out loud, with total sincerity, fully understanding what it means.</p> <p>Salat: Salat is the obligatory Muslim prayers, performed five times each day by Muslims. It is the second Pillar of Islam. All Muslims try to do this. Muslim children as young as seven are encouraged to pray. The prayer ritual, which is over 1400 years old, is repeated five times a day by hundreds of millions of people all round the world. Carrying it out is not only highly spiritual but connects each Muslim to all others around the world</p> <p>Zakat: Zakat is the compulsory giving of a set percentage of one's wealth to charity. It is regarded as a type of worship and of self-purification. Zakat is the third Pillar of Islam. Zakat is the giving of 2.5% of one's wealth each year to benefit the poor.</p> <p>Sawm: Sawm is fasting. It's the fourth of the Five Pillars of Islam. Muslims are required to fast during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. During the 29/30 days of Ramadan all adult Muslims must give up the following things during the hours of daylight: - Food or drink of any sort - Smoking, including passive smoking - Sexual activity. Muslims who are physically or mentally unwell may be excused some of these, as may those who are under twelve years old, the very old, those who are pregnant, breast-feeding, menstruating, or travelling.</p>
Hajj	<p>* Once a year, Muslims of every ethnic group, colour, social status, and culture gather together in Mecca and stand before the Kaaba praising Allah together. It is a ritual that is designed to promote the bonds of Islam by showing that everyone is equal in the eyes of Allah.</p> <p>* The Hajj makes Muslims feel real importance of life here on earth, and the afterlife, by stripping away all markers of social status, wealth, and pride. In the Hajj all are truly equal. The Hajjis or pilgrims wear simple white clothes called Ihram. During the Hajj the Pilgrims perform acts of worship and they renew their sense of purpose in the world. Mecca is a place that is holy to all Muslims. It is so holy that no non-Muslim is allowed to enter.</p> <p>* For Muslims, the Hajj is the fifth and final pillar of Islam. It occurs in the month of Dhul Hijjah which is the twelfth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. It is the journey that every sane adult Muslim must undertake at least once in their lives if they can afford it and are physically able.</p>
Ramadan	<p>* Ramadan is the holy month of fasting – when Muslims do not eat or drink during daylight hours – they eat before the sun comes up and after it has gone down. It is important to them as it helps bring them closer to Allah and become better people by giving to charity and spending more time with friends and family. Muslims believe that their good actions bring a greater reward during this month than at any other time of year, because this month has been blessed by Allah.</p>

	<p>* The start of Ramadan is a different day every year as it depends on the course of the Moon. In the morning they get up early and eat before the sun rise, this meal is called the Suhur. During the day Muslims try to become better people, they may try to be kind, help others and give to charity. In the afternoon Muslims go to the Mosque and pray, they try to become closer to Allah. After the sun has set they eat their evening meal called Iftar. The end of Ramadan is called Eid al-Fitr, Muslims celebrate by having a big family party and dressing in their best clothes</p>
The Quran	<p>* The Quran is the Muslim holy book which contains the word of God, guidance and teachings, there are 114 chapters in the Qur'an, which is written in Arabic. It was given to The Prophet Mohammed on the Night of Power – which is celebrated during Ramadan</p> <p>* The Prophet Mohammed was meditating in a cave and praying to Allah for guidance, the angel Jibril appeared in front of him and gave him a scroll with the words of Allah written on it. But Mohammed couldn't read! The angel said to Mohammed three times 'Read! Read! Read!' and a miracle happened, suddenly Mohammed could read and understand the words of Allah. Mohammed's wish had come true, he was guided by Allah and spent the rest of his life receiving direct teachings and recording them, after 23 years he collated them which form the same Quran you can buy today.</p> <p>* The Night of Power is important as it was when Allah chose to reveal the Quran to Mohammed. Muslims also believe it is one of the most holy days of the year when, if they are good Muslims, their wishes may also come true and they could be guided by Allah.</p>
Islamic Dress	<p>* Some Muslim women choose to wear a head or body covering, the main types are Hijab, Niqab, Chador and Burka. They all cover the head but differ in how much of the rest of the body they cover. All coverings are worn in front of male non-family members and in public, they are removed at home.</p> <p>* Muslim women choose to cover themselves as in the Quran it teaches to dress modestly 'And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty' they are not forced to wear them but do so to express their religion.</p> <p>* Sadly there are some places in the world who have chosen to go against human rights and the freedom of expression and have banned the burka and other head coverings in public. Such countries include, France, Belgium and Austria.</p>

Key Word	Meaning
Islam	The religion
Muslim	A follower of Islam
Allah	The Arabic word for God
Monotheistic Religion	A religion that believes in one God
Quran	The Islamic holy book
Prophet Mohammed	The human founder of Islam and messenger of God
Prophet	Someone who communicates with God
Mosque	The Islamic place of worship
Five Pillars	The five acts a Muslim must do to live a good and responsible life
Shahadah	The declaration of faith – becoming a Muslim
Salat	Performing ritual prayers in the proper way five times each day
Zakat	Paying a charity tax to benefit the poor and the needy
Sawm	Fasting during the month of Ramadan
Hajj	A pilgrimage to Mecca
Ramadan	Fasting for one month during daylight hours
Fasting	Not eating or drinking
Id-ul-Fitr	Celebrates the end of Ramadan
The Night of Power	When the Quran was given to Mohammed

Hijab	A head covering worn in public which usually covers the head and chest
Chador	A large piece of cloth that is wrapped around the head and upper body leaving only the face exposed
Niqab	A garment that covers the face while leaving the eyes uncovered
Burka	Outer garment which covers the whole body and the face

Quote	Topic
'Say: Allah, he is the one' Quran	Allah
'There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger.' Shahadah	Five Pillars
'Allah knows what is in every heart' Quran	Quran
'Show forgiveness, enjoin kindness, avoid ignorance' Quran	Quran
'And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty' Quran	Islamic Dress