

The Bismillah Emblem

PARENT/LEADER GUIDE
PREPARED FOR PACK 12



Activities for earning the Bismillah Emblem

1 – The Holy Books

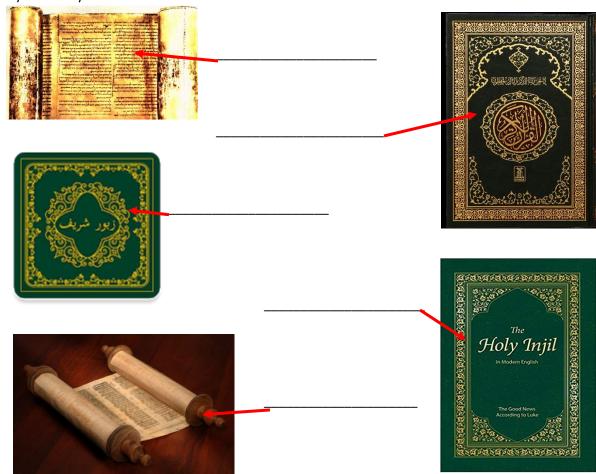
A – Name all the Holy Books revealed to prophets by Allah Almighty (God)

- The Scrolls were revealed to Prophet Ibrahim(AS1)
- The Zabur (holy book) was revealed to Prophet Dawud (David)AS
- The Tawrat (Torah) was revealed to Prophet Musa (Moses)AS
- The Injil (Gospel) was revealed to Prophet Isa (Jesus)AS. Some scholars equate The Zabur with the biblical book of Psalms.
- The Qur'an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (SAS²)

B – Which one was the final revelation?

• The final revelation is the Qur'an, revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (SAS)

Identify each Holy Book:



 $^{^{1}}$ AS – Aly his Salam - عليه السلم

مَلِّماللهُ عَلِيهِ وسَلَمُ - SAS – Salallahu alayhi wa salam - مَلِّماللهُ عَلِيهِ وسَلَمُ



2 - The Great Prophets

A – Name five of the greatest Prophets

Here are the five greatest Prophets of all time (Allah always knows BEST)

- 1. The Prophet Muhammad [™] (SAS) ~ known as Imam Al-Anbiyah wal Mursalin = Leader of the Prophets and the Messengers. This is only one of the many names attributed to the Prophet in the Qur'an.
- 2. The Prophet Ibrahim/Abraham ~ He is known as the friend of Allah = Khalilullah
- 3. The Prophet Musa/Moses ~ He is known as the One who heard the speech of Allah or the one whom Allah spoke to = Kalimullah
- 4. The Prophet Isa/Jesus ~ He is known as Ruhullah = The Spirit of Allah. Not to be taken in a literal sense, he is called this because Allah had the Angel Jibril/Gabriel honor Maryam (Peace be upon her) to give birth to Isa without the need for a partner. Angel Gabriel is the one who blew the Ruh of Isa into Maryam.
- 5. The Prophet Nuh/Noah $^{\sim}$ He is known as the Najiyullah = The Confidant of Allah.
 - **Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon all of the Prophets and Messengers**

The following table lists the names of all the Prophets (listed in the Quran) and in the order that Allah sent them with their message to mankind.

| 1 -Adam | 13 - Shu'aib (Jethro) |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 - Nuh (Noah) | 14 - Musa (Moses) |
| 3 - Idris (Enoch) | 15 - Harun (Aaron) |
| 4 - Hud (Heber) | 16 - Dhulkifl (Ezekiel) |
| 5 - Salih (Methusaleh) | 17 - Dawud (David) |
| 6 - Ibrahim (Abraham) | 18 - Sulayman (Solomon) |
| 7 - Lut (Lot) | 19 - Ilias (Elias) |
| 8 - Ismail (Ishmael) | 20 - Alyasa (Elisha) |
| 9 - Ishaq (Isaac) | 21 - Yunus (Jonah) |
| 10 - Yaqub (Jacob) | 22 -Zakariya (Zachariah) |
| 11 - Yusuf (Joseph) | 23 - Yahya (John the Baptist) |
| 12 -Ayyub (Job) | 24 - Isa (Jesus) |
| 25 - Muhammad (PBUH) | |

B - In your notebook, write a brief essay on the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Birth of the Prophet and his Childhood:

Prophet Muhammad (SAS) was born about 570 AD in Mecca. His father, whose name was Abdullah, died six months before Prophet Muhammad (SAS)'s birth. His mother, Amina, died when he was six years old. His grandfather, Abdul-Muttalib, took care of him, but unfortunately, two years later he died, the prophet was eight at that time. After his grandfather's death, his uncle Abu Talib took care of him, and was a pillar of support to the prophet for many years of his adult life.



Beginning of the Prophethood:

In 610 AD, when Prophet Muhammad (SAS) was forty years old, he went for a walk to the mountain of Hira near Mecca. According to Muslims during those early times, the angel Jibril (Gabriel) spoke with the prophet in a cave on the mountain. The story says that when Prophet Muhammad (SAS) first saw the angel Jibril, he fainted, because Jibril was so large.

Angel Jibril's first words to the Prophet were: "Read... in the name of God Who made man from a drop of blood... God is Most Rewarding... He Who taught man to write with pen... and taught man what he knew not."

The Prophet went back home to his wife Khadijah, and told her what had happened. New revelations came to him commanding him to preach what was being sent down from God. When Prophet Muhammad (SAS) first started teaching, many of the people of Mecca, who worshipped idols, did not like the things that the Prophet said. Nonetheless, there were people who listened to his preaching and obeyed his messages. These people were the first of the followers of Islam. The Leaders of Mecca punished, tortured, and even executed the early followers of Islam. The Prophet Muhammad (SAS) supported by his early followers resisted this and continued to teach Islam.

The Hijrah:

After 13 years in Mecca, the Prophet Muhammad (SAS) took his message to Medina, where some people have heard about him and his followers. They invited him and his followers to their city. Before the prophet could accept their invitation, he requested that they convert to Islam. The city of Medina in habitants agreed, and many of his followers followed him to Medina. This migration from Mecca to Medina is called the Hijrah. The Hijrah marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar. The Prophet Muhammad (SAS) fearing for the weakest of his followers stayed behind until all of his people have left Mecca safely.

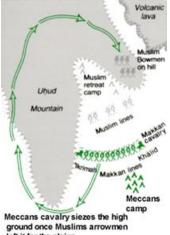
When the Prophet and Abu Bakr arrived in Medina, all the towns people turned out to welcome them to Medina and each offered the Prophet his/her home. The Prophet wisely selected his Camel to randomly select a spot, where he would build his house and the first mosque of Medina (and Islam). A small place for prayer, was built in the back of this house.

The Battles of Badr and Uhud:

The Quraysh pagans of Mecca sent a large army numbering 1,000 warriors to fight the Muslims. The Muslims could only muster 300 warriors made up of farmers and shepherds to meet the army of Quraysh in battle. Both armies met at the wells of Badr. The pagans were defeated and Abu Jahl, one of the pagan leaders, was killed in battle. The pagans could not allow this defeat to stand, so they recruited mercenaries from across the Arabian Peninsula inviting them all to Mecca to join their army. The pagans raised another force numbering 3,000 and set out for Medina. In AD 625, a year after the battle of Badr, The Pagan army camped on the pastures north of the city, hoping that the Muslims would come out to meet them. A scout alerted the Prophet of the pagan army's presence and numbers. A Muslim conference of war convened, and a Muslim force of 1,000 was readied for battle. The Muslim army marched to meet the pagan army at the base of Mount Uhud. Before the battle, the Prophet



assigned 50 archers on a nearby hill. This was a strategic decision in order to shield the vulnerable flanks of the outnumbered Muslim army; the archers on the hill were to protect the left flank, while the right flank was to be protected by the Mount of Uhud. The Prophet ordered the Muslim archers to never under any circumstances leave their positions on the hill unless ordered to do so by him only. Whilst outnumbered, the Muslims gained the early initiative and forced the pagan lines back, thus leaving much of the Meccan camp unprotected. When the battle looked to be only one step away from a decisive Muslim victory, a serious mistake was committed by the Muslim archers assigned to the hill. The archers abandoned their positions in favor of collecting the spoils of war; thus, disobeying a direct command from the Prophet. The Meccan cavalry, led by Meccan war veteran Khalid ibn al-Walid³, brought



ground once Muslims arrowmen left it for the plains

chaos to the Muslim ranks, many Muslims were killed, including the Prophet's last uncle Hamza⁴. The Prophet himself was badly injured in that battle. The Muslims had to withdraw up the slopes of Uhud. The Meccans did not pursue the Muslims further, but marched back to Mecca declaring victory.

The Spread of Islam in Arabia:

The Prophet Muhammad (SAS) and his followers continued to spread the message of Islam throughout the Arabian Peninsula. The vast majority of people living on the Peninsula had converted to Islam. In 630 AD, after another murderous raid by the Pagan's on a group of Muslim Scholars, the Prophet Muhammad (SAS), assembled a 10,000 strong Muslim army led by Khalid ibn al-Walid to conquer Mecca and end the Pagan Stronghold. Because of the size of the army, the people of Mecca surrendered without a fight. Abu Sufyan, the last leader of Quraysh, converted to Islam by saying the Testimony (ash-Ashaada⁵):

"I testify that there is no other god but Allah, and I testify that Muhammad (SAS) is the Messenger of Allah." The Prophet Muhammad (SAS) and his followers removed and broke all idols from the Kaaba. The idols were man made statues, that the Pagans worshiped as gods. The Prophet forgave all citizens of Mecca. This was the Prophet's victory in spreading Islam all over Arabia.

The Prophet's Final Days:

In 632 AD, the Prophet Muhammad (SAS) became very sick. On his last day alive, the Prophet called his daughter Fatimah and told her something in a secret voice that made her cry. Then he whispered to her something else which made her laugh. As the angel of death approached the Prophet, A'ishah heard the Prophet uttering these words: "The most exalted Companionship on high. To Allah we turn and to Him we turn back for help and last abode." The Prophet was sixty-three years old when he died. The Prophet Muhammad (SAS) is buried in the chamber of his wife A'ishah(RA) in Medina, where the

³ Khalid Ibn Al Walid: will eventually convert to Islam and be known as "Saif Allah" – The Sword of Allah (God) – he is also the Muslim General that defeated the Roman Empire.

⁴ Ḥamzah ibn 'Abdul-Muṭṭalib - *Asad Allāh* (أسد الله, "Lion of God)

^{ِّ}لَا إِنَّا اللهِ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ أَللهُ Al Shahada - There is no god but God. Muhammad is the messenger of God. لا إِنَّه إِلَّا الله مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ أَللهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ اللهِ ا

⁶ 'A'ishah enquired from Fatimah after the Prophet's death, as to this weeping and laughing to which Fatimah replied: "The first time he disclosed to me that he would not recover from his illness and I wept. Then he told me that I would be the first of his family to join him, so I laughed."



Masjid al-Nabawi (Mosque of the Prophet) is. In Medina, his friend Abu Bakr went to the Masjid al-Nabawi and reminded all people:

"If any of you worship Muhammad (SAS), you should know that Muhammad (SAS) is dead. But those of you who worship Allah(swt) (God), let it be known that Allah(swt) (God) is alive and cannot die."

3 - Prayers

A - Give a brief description of Kaaba, the house of Allah (God).

The Kaaba, meaning "cube" in Arabic, is the house of Allah; it rests within the Grand Mosque of Mecca. Prophet Ibrahim and his son Ismail, constructed the Kaaba. It was originally a simple unroofed rectangular structure. "The Quraysh tribe, who ruled Mecca, rebuilt the pre-Islamic Kaaba circa 608 CE with alternating courses of masonry and wood. A door was raised above ground level to protect the shrine from intruders and flood waters. Every year about 2 million people visit the Kaaba to perform Hajj or the pilgrimage, one of the pillars of Islam.

B - Read an article about pilgrimage and write a report on it in your notebook.

Hajj, the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, which every adult Muslim must make at least once in his or her lifetime. The hajj is the fifth of the fundamental Muslim practices and institutions known as the Five Pillars of Islam. The pilgrimage rite begins on the 7th day of Dhū al-Ḥijjah (the last month of the Islamic year) and ends on the 12th day.

The hajj is incumbent on all Muslims who are physically and financially able to make the pilgrimage, but only if their absence will not place hardships on their family. A person may perform the hajj by proxy, appointing a relative or friend going on the pilgrimage to "stand in" for him or her.

When the pilgrim is about 6 miles (10 km) from Mecca, he or she enters the state of holiness and purity known as ihram and wear the ihram garments; for men they consist of two white seamless sheets that are wrapped around the body, while women may wear sewn clothes. The pilgrims cut neither their hair nor their nails until the pilgrimage rite is over. They enter Mecca and walk seven times around the sacred shrine called the Ka'bah, in the Great Mosque, kiss or touch the Black Stone (al-Ḥajar al-Aswad) in the Ka'bah, pray twice in the direction of the Maqām Ibrāhīm and the Ka'bah, and run seven times between the minor prominences of Mount Ṣafā and Mount Marwah. On the 7th day of Dhū al-Ḥijjah the pilgrims are reminded of their duties. At the second stage of the ritual, which takes place between the 8th and the 12th days of the month, the pilgrim visits the holy places outside Mecca—Jabal al-Raḥmah, Muzdalifah, and Minā—and sacrifices an animal in commemoration of Abraham's sacrifice. Male pilgrims' heads are then usually shaved, and female pilgrims remove a lock of hair. After throwing seven stones at each of the three pillars at Minā on three successive days (the pillars exemplify various devils), the pilgrim returns to Mecca to perform the farewell ṭawāf, or circling, of the Ka'bah before leaving the city.

About two million persons perform the hajj each year, and the rite serves as a unifying force in Islam by bringing followers of diverse background together in religious celebration. Once a believer has made the pilgrimage, he or she may add the title hājjī or hājjiyyah, respectively, to his or her name. The pilgrimage, if performed properly, is believed to wipe out previous sins for the sincere believer.



C - Paste several pictures and articles of Kaaba in your notebook.









4 - Religious Holidays

A - Describe four of the major Muslim holidays observed during the year.

<u>Ashura</u> is a time of fasting and of inner thoughts. It is usually celebrated on the 10th day of Muharram, the first month in the Islamic Calendar.

<u>Eid-Al-Adha</u> is one of the major holidays of Islam. It celebrates the sacrifice that Ibraham was willing to make of his own son Ismael when he was commanded to show his commitment to Allah.

<u>Isra Mer'aj</u> is a very special night in the Muslim faith. The official name of the holiday is Laylat Al-Isra wa Al-Miraj, which means "the night journey and ascension." It is celebrated on the 27th day of Rajab, the seventh month of the Islamic Calendar.

<u>Eid-Al-Fitr</u> is one of the major holidays of Islam. It comes at the end of the holy month of Ramadan and celebrates the end of the fasting.

B - Learn the names of Islamic months.

1. MUHARRAM 2. SAFAR 3. RABI-AL-AWWAL 4. RABI-AL-THANI

5. JUMADA-AL-AWWAL 6. JUMADA-AL-THANI 7. RAJAB 8. SHABAN

9. RAMADAN 10. SHAWWAL 11. ZUL-QAADAH 12. ZUL-HIJJAH



C - Write a brief account of the importance of Eid Al Adha.

The historical background of Eid al-Adha is that the Prophet Ibrahim /Abraham (may Allah be pleased with him) had a dream in which he was sacrificing his young son, Ismail/Ishmael (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Prophet Ibrahim, a great believer in Allah, took his dream literally and wanted to sacrifice his son. But, according to the tradition, Allah the Almighty sent his angels and replaced Ismael with a lamb.

During the celebration of Eid al-Adha, Muslims honor and remember Ibrahim's (may Allah be pleased with him) trials, by themselves slaughtering an animal. The meat from the sacrifice of Eid al-Adha is mostly given away to others. One-third is eaten by immediate family and relatives, one-third is given away to friends, and one-third is donated to the poor. It is to divide among those who honestly deserve the share of it rather than consuming all among ourselves.

After the five pillars of Islam, Sunnat-e-Ibrahimi (sacrifice) is the most important activity. Allah says in the Quran - "It is not their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah; it is your devotion that reaches Him." (Qur'an 22:37)

The sacrifice is the legacy of Prophet Ibrahim who symbolizes the trial of faith and loyalty towards Allah. It enlightens ours path with true spirit of righteousness. Sacrifice is an act of submission to Allah. It is to submit to the will of the Almighty. Sometimes Allah asks us to sacrifice something important to us in order to learn that there is something greater beyond it.

Every act of sacrifice nourishes and increases our Imaan, that is to say 'Faith', for it transforms a verbal confession and a mental conviction into a living reality. It confirms, and thus increases, our love for Allah, for every step we give up something for the sake of his love.

5 - The Mosque of Islamic Center

A - Attend religious services regularly

B - In your notebook, draw a picture of Masjid Aqsa and write a brief description of its importance to Muslims.







The Dome of the Rock Mosque

Al-Masjid al-Aqsa (located in Jerusalem) was the first of the two qiblahs, and is one of the three mosques to which people may travel for the purpose of worship. It was built by prophet Sulaymaan (peace be upon him), the Prophet (PBUH) was taken on the Night Journey (isra') to Bayt al-Maqdis (Jerusalem), where he led the Prophets in prayer in this blessed mosque.



Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning): "Glorified (and Exalted) be He (Allah) Who took His slave (Muhammad) for a journey by night from Al-Masjid Al-Haraam (at Makkah) to Al-Masjid Al-Aqsaa (in Jerusalem), the neighborhood whereof We have blessed, in order that We might show him (Muhammad) of our Ayaat (proofs, evidences, lessons, signs, etc.). Verily, He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer" [al-Isra' 17:1]

It is important not to confuse Al-Masjid al-Aqsa with the Dome of the Rock which was built by the caliph Abd al-Malik ibn Marwaan in 72 AH. The mosque which is the place of prayer is not the Dome of the Rock, but because pictures of the Dome are so widespread, many Muslims think when they see it that this is the mosque. This is not in fact the case. The Mosque is situated in the southern portion of the plateau, and the Dome is built on the raised rock that is situated in the middle of the plateau.

6. Muslim Hero

A - Tell the story of your favorite Muslim hero.

Abū Bakr 'Abdallāh bin Abī Quḥāfah aṣ-Ṣiddīq; (c. 573 CE – 22 August 634 CE) popularly known as Abu Bakr was a senior companion (Sahabi) and—through his daughter Aisha—the father-in-law of prophet Muhammad(SAS). Abu Bakr became the first openly declared Muslim outside Muhammad's family. Abu Bakr served as a trusted advisor to the prophet. During Muhammad's lifetime, he was involved in several campaigns and treaties. After the death of the prophet, he succeeded him and ruled over the Rashidun Caliphate from 632 to 634 CE. As caliph, Abu Bakr succeeded to the political and administrative functions previously exercised by Muhammad(SAS). He was commonly known as The Truthful, As-Saddīq. Abu Bakr's reign lasted for 2 years, 2 months and 14 days ending with his death after an illness. He was mentioned in the Quran as the "second of the two who lay in the cave" in reference to the event of hijra, where with the prophet Muhammad(SAS) hid in the cave in Jabal Thawr from the Meccan search party that was sent after them, thus being one of few who were given direct mention in the Quran.

B - Write an essay on Hazret Bilal, the first Moazzin of Islam.

Hazrat Bilal (Radhiallahu Anhu / May God be pleased with him) or Bilal Ibn Rabah (also known as Bilal al-Habashi or Bilal the Ethiopian), the first Muezzin of Islam, originally was a black slave from Ethiopia. Hazrat Bilal (ra) was one of the most trusted and loyal companion (Sahabi E Rasool) of the Prophet after he converted to Islam.

Bilal was the first African to accept Islam. He had a strong faith in Allah(SWT) and a great love for the Prophet Muhammad(SAS). Bilal was of pure character. Soon after converting to Islam he earned high respect of the Prophet. The Prophet Muhammad(SAS) liked Hazrat Bilal's sweet voice; thus, made him the first Muazzin of Islam - The Caller to the Prayers.

After Bilal converted to Islam, this infuriated his master Umayyah ibn Khalaf, which drove him to exalt a lot of torture on Bilal until Abu Bakr was able to buy him from his master and free him.



7 - American Heritage

A - In your notebook write a brief report on a great American Muslim. Here are a few examples: Muhammed Ali, Malcolm Shahbaz, Kareem Abdul Jabbar.



Who Was Malcolm X?

Malcolm X was a famous civil rights leader who became one of the most important people to fight for the equality of African Americans in the United States. He was born on May 19, 1925, in Omaha, Nebraska. Unfortunately, Malcolm's father was killed when he was six years old. His mother was placed in a mental institution shortly after, and he was put in foster care. Despite his upbringing, Malcolm still maintained aspirations of becoming a successful lawyer. In school, a teacher told him he would never be a lawyer, because he was black. He dropped out of school and ended up in prison. His brother wrote to him and explained the teachings of Islam. After learning more and speaking to Elijah Muhammad, the leader of the Nation of Islam, Malcolm decided to become a Muslim.

Upon converting to Islam, Malcolm Little changed his last name to 'X'. Slaves in America were forced to take on the last name of their slave owners. Wanting to no longer identify with this, he replaced his last name with 'X'. Eventually, he changed his name entirely to Al-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz.

Under Elijah Muhammad's guidance, Malcolm X became a minister of several mosques and began his own newspaper called Muhammad Speaks. He believed that people should end racism 'by any means necessary'. Because of Malcolm's ability to appeal to African Americans, membership in the Nation of Islam grew from 400 people to 40,000 people by 1960. In March 1964, Malcolm terminated his relationship with the NOI. Unable to look past Muhammad's deception, Malcolm decided to found his own religious organization, the Muslim Mosque, Inc.

That same year, Malcolm went on a pilgrimage to Mecca, which proved to be life altering for him. For the first time, Malcolm shared his thoughts and beliefs with different cultures and found the response to be overwhelmingly positive. When he returned, Malcolm said he had met "blonde-haired, blued-eyed men I could call my brothers." He returned to the United States with a new outlook on integration and a new hope for the future. This time when Malcolm spoke, instead of just preaching to African-Americans, he had a message for all races.

On February 21, 1965, three gunmen rushed Malcolm onstage. They shot him 15 times at close range. The 39-year-old was pronounced dead on arrival at New York's Columbia Presbyterian Hospital.



8 - Pillars of Islam

Islam has five primary obligations, or pillars of faith, that each Muslim must fulfill in his or her lifetime. They are as follows:

Shahadah, profession of faith, is the first pillar of Islam. Muslims bear witness to the oneness of God by reciting the creed "There is no God but God and Muhammad (SAS) is the Messenger of God." This simple yet profound statement expresses a Muslim's complete acceptance of and total commitment to Islam.

Salah, prayer, is the second pillar. The Islamic faith is based on the belief that individuals have a direct relationship with God. The world's Muslims turn individually and collectively to Makkah, Islam's holiest city, to offer five daily prayers at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset and evening. In addition, Friday congregational service is also required. Although Salah can he performed alone, it is meritorious to perform it with another or with a group. It is permissible to pray at home, at work, or even outdoors; however, it is recommended that Muslims perform Salah in a mosque.

Zakat, alms giving, is the third pillar. Social responsibility is considered part of one's service to God; the obligatory act of zakat enshrines this duty. Zakat prescribes payment of fixed proportions of a Muslim's possessions for the welfare of the entire community and in particular for its needlest members. It is equal to 2.5 percent of an individual's total net worth, excluding obligations and family expenses.

Sawm, fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, is the fourth pillar of Islam. Ordained in the Holy Qur'an, the fast is an act of deep personal worship in which Muslims seek a richer perception of God. Fasting is also an exercise in self-control whereby one's sensitivity is heightened to the sufferings of the poor. Ramadan, the month during which the Holy Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (SAS), begins with the sighting of the new moon, after which abstention from eating, drinking etc. is obligatory from dawn to sunset. Ramadan is also a joyful month. Muslims break their fast at sunset with a special meal, iftar, perform additional nocturnal worship, tarawih, after evening prayer; and throng the streets in moods that are festive and communal. The end of Ramadan is observed by three days of celebration called Eid Al-Fitr, the feast of the breaking of the fast. Customarily, it is a time for family reunion and the favored holiday for children who receive new clothing and gifts.

Hajj, the pilgrimage to Makkah, is the fifth pillar and the most significant manifestation of Islamic faith and unity in the world. For those Muslims who are physically and financially able to make the journey to Makkah, the Hajj is a once in a lifetime duty that is the peak of their religious life. The Hajj is a remarkable spiritual gathering of over two million Muslims from all over the world to the holy city. In performing the Hajj, a pilgrim follows the order of ritual that the Prophet Muhammad (SAS) performed during his last pilgrimage.

The five pillars of Islam define the basic identity of Muslims - their faith, beliefs and practices - and bind together a worldwide community of believers into a fellowship of shared values and concerns.



The Five Pillars of Islam

In your own words, identify the 5 pillars and write what they mean to you.



