Coley Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

SUBJECT FOCUS:	RE	YEAR 6	AUTUMN TERM 1

Key Knowledge

Islam – Five Pillars of Islam

What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God?

Within Islam, there are compulsory duties that Muslims must try to carry out. All Muslims follow the Five Pillars of Islam.



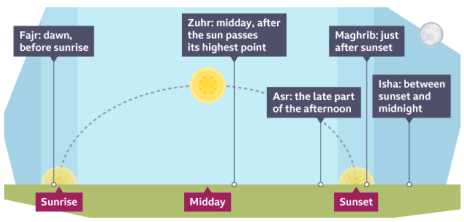
The Five Pillars of Islam are five duties that Muslims of all branches of Islam must follow:

Shahadah

- Shahadah is the first of the Five Pillars of Islam. Some see it as the most important belief within Islam as it sums up what a Muslim should believe in and it supports the other four pillars.
- Shahadah is the belief that "there is no God but Allah- and Muhammad is his messenger". All people converting to Islam must say these words to become part of the Islamic faith.
- Another important aspect of the Shahadah is that it teaches Muslims to follow in Muhammad's footsteps. By doing this, they follow the correct path, which will help them to become the best Muslim they can be.
- The Shahadah is important for the following reasons:
  - ❖ It is repeated during **Salah**.
  - ❖ It is recited in the **adhan**.
  - ❖ It is whispered to new born babies. Muslim parents aim for these to be the first words a newborn hears.
  - ❖ Muslims aim for it to be the last words they hear or say before they die.

Salah

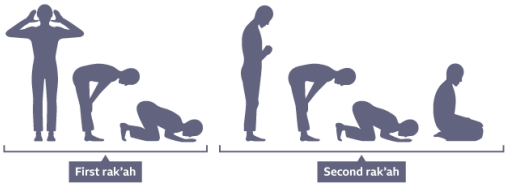
- Salah is the second of the Five Pillars of Islam. It is the belief that Muslims should pray five times each day. Prayer is important as it allows Muslims to communicate with Allah, listen to Allah and follow in the footsteps of the prophets.
- Prayer is performed five times each day because of what the Qur'an says about prayer: Establish prayer at the decline of the sun [from its meridian] until the darkness of the night and [also] the Qur'an of dawn. Indeed, the recitation of dawn is ever witnessed. **(Qur'an 17:78)**.



Key Knowledge

There are five key things that Muslims must do when they come into contact with Allah through Salah. These are:

1. perform **wudu**
2. pray five times each day at set times
3. face **Makkah**
4. perform certain actions which include standing, bowing, prostrating and sitting
5. recite in Arabic



When a Muslim prays, the intention (niyyah) behind the prayer must be right, otherwise Allah will know and the prayer will be meaningless. Although Muslims are expected to pray five times each day, they are allowed to perform more prayers. For example, they might say extra prayers asking for forgiveness.

Zakat

- Zakah is the third of the Five Pillars of Islam. It is giving money to the poor. Muslims believe that it is their duty to ensure Allah's wealth has been distributed equally as everyone is the same - Allah created everyone equally. If a Muslim decides not to follow the pillar of Zakah, it may affect how they are judged in the afterlife. This could make it more likely that they will be sent to Hell (Jahannam) rather than Paradise (Jannah).
- Zakah means 'that which purifies'. By giving money to charity, Muslims can cleanse their wealth. It is important that Muslims do not get attached to unnecessary things such as money and possessions. Islam teaches that focusing on wealth and material possessions does not make a good Muslim.
- Zakah refers to a Muslim giving 2.5% of their earnings to charity, after they have paid for what is necessary to support themselves and their family. This means that people who are too poor are not required to suffer hardship in order to give Zakah. Muslims see wealth as ultimately belonging to Allah, and giving Zakah helps to make people more equal. Helping one another is also seen as helping Allah.
- Some Muslims perform Zakah by giving directly to a charity. Others contribute to donations in the mosque, which then distributes the money to people in need. According to Surah 9 in the Qur'an, Zakah can only be used for the following:
  - ❖ helping the poor
  - ❖ helping people in need
  - ❖ freeing prisoners, slaves or captives
  - ❖ helping people out of debt



Key Knowledge

Sawm

- Sawm is the fourth of the Five Pillars of Islam. It happens during the ninth month of the lunar calendar, during **Ramadan**. Ramadan is special because it is believed to be the month in which the Prophet Muhammad began to receive revelations of the Qur'an.
- During Ramadan, Muslims give up food, liquid, smoking and sexual activity during daylight hours. Ramadan lasts for 29 or 30 days each year. Because Islam uses a lunar calendar, the month of Ramadan comes around 11 days earlier each year, so there is no Western season associated with Ramadan.
- Muslims are also expected to do their best to avoid evil thoughts and deeds. The break from the routine of preparing and eating meals leaves time for extra prayer, contemplation of God and reading the Qur'an.
- The following Muslims are not expected to fast: children who have not reached puberty, sick, women who are pregnant and the elderly.
- During Ramadan, if a Muslim misses a day of fasting then they are expected to make this up at the end of Ramadan or donate some extra money to charity. At the end of Ramadan, Muslims often spend time with family and friends.

Hajj

- Hajj is the fifth of the Five Pillars of Islam. It is the pilgrimage to Makkah. All Muslims are expected to go on Hajj once in their lifetime if they are physically, financially and mentally able to. It happens during the 12th month of the lunar calendar.
- Hajj is a gathering of Muslims from all over the world, who take part in an act of worship. No matter who they are, this act of worship brings all Muslims together as one. Everyone is expected to wear an **ihram** which is special clothing made from two sheets of white cloth. This is so that everyone is seen as equal, regardless of who they are. It also symbolises Muslims having only the bare essentials needed to live, and it allows them to leave material things behind them.
- Makkah is in Saudi Arabia. This is where the Prophet Muhammad was born and had his first revelation from Allah.
- There are several things that Muslims must do during the Hajj. These are:
  - wear **ihram**
  - walk around the Ka'bah seven times (**Tawaf**)
  - walk quickly between As-Safa and Al-Marwah on the outskirts of **Makkah**
  - visit Mina for midday prayers
  - stand at Arafat from noon to sunset
  - collect pebbles from Muzdalifah
  - stone the pillars in Mina
  - celebrate Id-ul Adha



Learning Outcomes

I can show an understanding of why people show commitment in different ways.

I can describe how different practices enable Muslims to show their commitment to God and understand that some of these will be more significant to some Muslims than others.

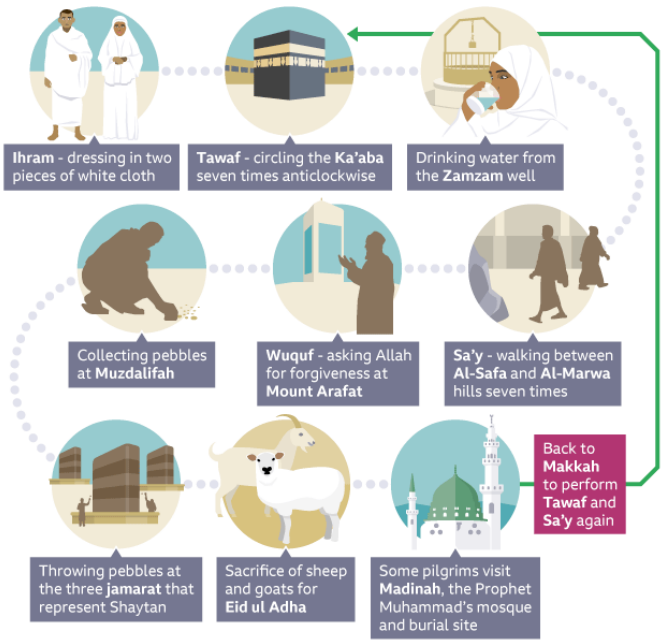
I can think of some ways of showing commitment to God that would be better than others for Muslims.

Key Vocabulary

commitment	Being dedicated to a cause or an activity
Muslim	A follower of the religion of Islam
Allah	The Arabic name Muslims use for God
	The feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity
Salah	The five daily prayers of Islam
Adhan	Call to prayer
wudu	A ritual washing performed in preparation for prayer
Makkah	City where Muhammed was born. Also spelt Mecca
prostrating	In Islam, kneeling with forehead, hands, knees and feet, touching the floor
Ramadan	The month of fasting and prayer in Islam
ihram	Simple clothing made from two pieces of white cloth for men, and for women, normal clothing with face and hands uncovered
Ka'bah	The cube-shaped building in the centre of Makkah, which is the most sacred site in Islam

Possible experiences

- Visitor to school to talk about the Five Pillars of Islam
- Visit to the Mosque
- Video clips from BBC showing elements of the Five Pillars of Islam
- Investigate a Muslim charity



Things Muslims must do during the Hajj