



The Five Pillars of Islam:

The Five Pillars of Islam are five actions that every Muslim must complete in order to lead a good and moral life. Carrying out the Five Pillars demonstrates that a Muslim recognises and acknowledges their religious duties and obligations.

Pillar	Description
 Shahadah	"There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is His Messenger." When a Muslim recites this they are proclaiming that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allah is the only God, and that Muhammad is His Prophet. They personally accept this as true. They will obey all the commitments of Islam in their life.
 Salah	Salah is performed five times a day at set times: dawn, noon, afternoon, sunset and evening. Salah involves certain rituals and actions such as performing Wudu (cleansing) before praying and facing Mecca whilst praying. When Muslims prayer they offer praise, thanks or repentance to Allah.
 Zakah	Muslims give 2.5% of their earnings to charity, once they have paid for what is necessary to support themselves and their families. This means that Muslims who are struggling financially do not have to pay Zakah if they cannot afford to. Helping other Muslims is seen as helping Allah and fulfilling a duty to Him.
 Sawm	Muslims fast (do not eat or drink) between sunrise and sunset during the month of Ramadan. Certain Muslims are exempt from fasting (e.g. pregnant women). Fasting helps a Muslim develop physical and moral self-discipline and empathise with the less fortunate.
 Hajj	Muslims travel to Mecca to visit the Kaaba. Everyone taking part in the pilgrimage is treated as an equal and there is a great sense of unity. The pilgrimage shows self-discipline and fulfils a religious duty, bringing Muslims closer to Allah.

Key Terms:

Islam	The world's second-largest religion which was founded by Prophet Muhammad in Mecca (Saudi Arabia) in the 7th Century.
Muslim	A follower of the religion of Islam.
Jahiliyyah (Ja-hill-le-ya)	Refers to the period of time before Islam was founded.
Prophet Muhammad	The founder of Islam and the final Prophet to receive Allah's message.
Qur'an	The Holy Book in Islam which was delivered to Prophet Muhammad by Angel Jibril in 610AD.
Allah	Translates to "God" - Muslims believe in only one God who is all-power, all-knowing and all-loving.
Monotheistic	The belief that there is only one God.
Shahadah	The first Pillar of Islam. The Shahadah is a declaration of faith.
Salah	The second Pillar of Islam. Muslims worship Allah five times a day.
Zakah	The third Pillar of Islam. Muslims will give 2.5% of their wealth to charity each year.
Sawm	The fourth Pillar of Islam. Muslims fast (do not eat or drink) between dawn and dusk during Ramadan.
Hajj	The fifth Pillar of Islam. Hajj is an Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca. Muslims must complete Hajj at least once during their life time. A pilgrimage is a journey to a special place.
Mosque	The place of worship in Islam.

The Origin of Islam:

The Jahiliyyah Period

"Jahiliyyah" translates to "The Age of Ignorance" and refers to the period of time in Arabia before Islam was founded. Society was extremely patriarchal (controlled by men). Women were thought to be worthless and female infanticide was common practice. Also, people worshipped many idols and different Gods (polytheism).

Prophet Muhammad (571 - 632AD)

Prophet Muhammad was born in Mecca in 571AD. He married a successful businesswoman called Khadijah. He was a faithful and trustworthy man who was angered and frustrated by how society behaved.

Prophet Muhammad is known as the "Seal of the Prophets". Muslims believe that Prophet Muhammad was the final Prophet to receive Allah's message. Prophet Muhammad confirms the teachings of previous Prophets such as Adam, Musa (Moses), Ibrahim (Abraham) and Isa (Jesus).



The Night of Power (610AD)

The Night of Power ("Lailat Al-Qadr") refers to the night in which the Qur'an was first revealed to Prophet Muhammad by Allah. Prophet Muhammad, who was 40 years-old at the time, had gone to Cave Hira to pray. Whilst there he was visited by Angel Jibril who recited the first verses of the Qur'an to him:

"Recite in the name of your Lord who created. Created man from a clot of blood. Read in the name of your Lord who taught by the pen. Taught man what he knew not".

Prophet Muhammad could not read or write and therefore had to remember everything Angel Jibril had said to him and repeat it all back to a group of scribes who wrote it down. This is how the Qur'an was formed.

The Qur'an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad over a period of 23 years.

The Qur'an



The Qur'an is the Holy Book in Islam. It is believed to contain the words of Allah. It teaches Muslims about the nature of Allah, their faith and what is right and wrong.

Muslims believe that the Qur'an is infallible (has no mistakes in). It is also timeless. This means that it is for all people, at all times, in all places. Muslims believe that the Qur'an has not been changed or altered since it was first revealed to Prophet Muhammad in 610AD.