

WORSHIP IN ISLAM

1: THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

Muslims often think of the practice of their faith as a kind of building for God held up by five pillars. Worship can be private or public. It can involve words or actions or be expressed in other ways.

These are the five basic duties, which all Muslims must perform:

Shahadah - the bearing of witness, or declaration of faith that there is only one God and Muhammad is his prophet.

Salah - Prayer five times a day

Zakah - the giving of money for the poor

Saum - fasting during the month of Ramadan

Hajj - Pilgrimage to Makkah, at least once in a lifetime, if possible

To find out about The Five Pillars

READ Skills 2 pages 68 - 69 (it is on a sheet as well.)

And then...

WRITE notes and make sure you know the rituals, beliefs and attitudes which are aspects of each of The Five Pillars

And then...

EVALUATION/DISCUSSION

‘It must take courage to make a public declaration of faith’

How might commitment and bearing witness affect someone’s life.

2: PRAYER

Although mid-day on Friday is the time when there is an act of worship including a sermon which all men and some women like to attend (this is called ‘**JUM’AH**’ prayers,) prayer five times a day is the most important part of Muslim worship. Prayers can be said in any clean place. Muslim men like to pray together in Mosques whereas most women pray more often at home.

To Find Out More About Prayer:

READ Islam pages 14 - 19

And then ...

WRITE an explanation of the preparations a Muslim has to make before performing Salah.

DRAW a series of diagrams to illustrate rak'ah and copy the verses from the Qur'an, which Muslims repeat in their prayers.

MAKE a dictionary list of the following words:

Rak'ah Wudu Du'a Topi Subha
Muezzin Minaret Adhan Mihrab Qiblah

And then...

EXPLAIN why the following words are important when a Muslim prays
submission humility concentration purity
sincerity unity brotherhood peace

EVALUATION/DISCUSSION

If Muslims believe that a person can pray to God at any time and in any place, why do you think they go to so much trouble for formal prayers? If God knows everything what is the point in making private prayers?

3: ZAKAH

Zakah is giving alms (giving money to charity) 2.5% of unspent income

To find out more about Zakah:

READ Islam page 57

And then...

WRITE an explanation of the **aims** of Zakah, how much a Muslim must pay and what the money is used for.

And then...

LIST AND DISCUSS with a partner, all the examples of poverty you can think of locally, nationally and internationally. Do you think that Islam has the right solution to the problems caused by the unequal distribution of wealth in the world?

EVALUATION/DISCUSSION

What difficulties do you think a Muslim in Britain may have in keeping the Five Pillars?

4. MUSLIM FOOD LAWS

READ Examining Islam page 90

And then...

EXPLAIN what is meant by the terms **HALAL** and **HARAM**

And then...

MAKE a list of all unlawful food

To find out about Halal killing:

EXPLAIN the rules about how an animal is killed and **WHY** it is done in this particular way.