

Religious Education Knowledge Organiser

Year 6

Autumn (i)

What is the significance of The Hajj to Muslims?

Substantive Knowledge - To know the significance of pilgrimages and to recall the preparations for The Hajj. To know the key aspects of the Hajj, it's stories and to know the religious relevance of Mecca. To know who built the Kaaba and the relevance of Mount Arafat and Eid ul Adha.

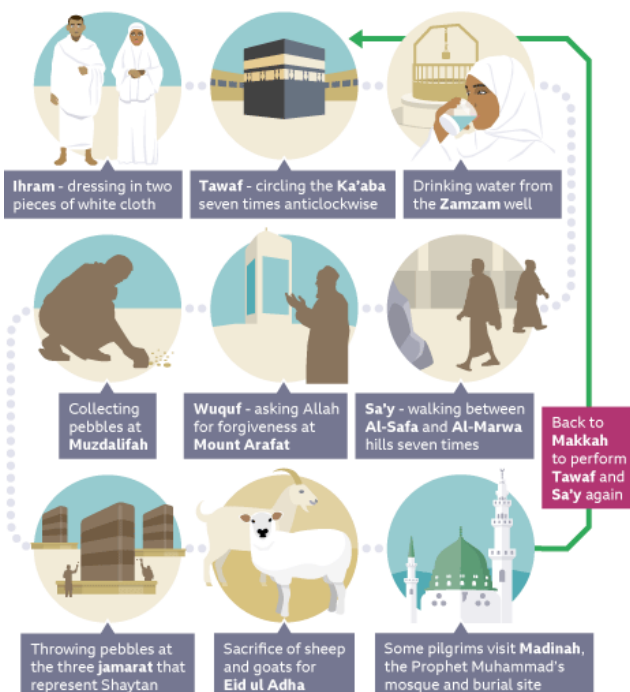
Significance of pilgrimages and The Hajj.

A pilgrimage is a religious or spiritual journey that someone may try to go on during their lifetime. The Hajj is the fifth of the Five Pillars of Islam. It is considered a sacred journey that every adult Muslim must make at least once in their lifetime, if they are physically able to. They travel to the Ka'ba (House of Allah) to renew their faith, develop a closer relationship with God and seek forgiveness for their sins. As everyone is taking part together, everyone is equal and there is a great sense of unity.



The Ka'ba

What are the key aspects of The Hajj and why are they significant to Muslims?



On the journey, Muslims change their clothes for two white cloths and enter the state of Ihram. This shows equality as everyone, regardless of their ethnicity, nationality or socio-economic status, is dressed in a similar way.

The pilgrims arrive at the Great Mosque, a spiritual place for Muslims as it is viewed by many as Allah's house. Here they circle the Ka'ba seven times, which is called Tawaf.

A drink is taken from the Zamzam well in remembrance of Hajira's search for water. This shows Muslims' dependence on Allah.

The pilgrims visit the hills of Safa and Marwah, and run between the two seven times to replicate the actions of Hajira. She was determined, as all Muslims must be, and they must never give up.

Muslims stop at Mount Arafat, the place where Muhammad gave his final sermon, and they pray while hoping to be forgiven for their sins. This is where the Day of Judgement will take place.

Muslims spend the night at Muzdalifa, a valley between Arafat and Mina. At Muzdalifa they collect pebbles, which are required for the following day.

They then travel to Mina, where they stone the Devil. They throw pebbles at three stone pillars constructed to represent the Devil. Ibrahim is said to have done this. It is important that Muslims show that they reject the Devil.

Id-ul-Adha is the Feast of Sacrifice, which is celebrated by all Muslims, not just those completing Hajj.

What stories are related to The Hajj?

God told the prophet Ibrahim to take his family to Arabia. Having run out of water and being unable to find any, they prayed to God and water miraculously sprang from the ground. This is called the Zamzam well. Ibrahim was commanded to build the Ka'ba as a shrine dedicated to Allah. Muhammad restored the shrine much later so it was a place to only worship Allah.



Zamzam well

Mecca and the Great Mosque.



Mecca and the Great Mosque

Mecca is the birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad. The Kaaba is located in the center of the Great Mosque in Mecca and universally considered by Muslims to be the most sacred spot on Earth. Thus, Mecca is a deeply spiritual destination for Muslims all over the world and is considered the heart of Islam.

Mount Arafat and Eid ul Adha

Mount Arafat is a granite hill about 20km southeast of Makkah in the plain of Arafah. It is often called the “Mountain of Mercy,” because it is the hill upon which Prophet Ibrahim was prepared to sacrifice his son Ismail before Allah mercifully substituted a ram for sacrifice in place of the boy.



Mount Arafat

Eid ul Adha marks the end of the Hajj but is celebrated by Muslims throughout the world. The day begins with a special prayer (Salat al-Eid) followed by a sermon called a khutbah. Traditionally this is followed by the sacrifice. The rest of the day is spent visiting houses of families and friends.



Eid ul Adha

Portable knowledge - What we need to know.

A pilgrimage is a religious journey usually to a holy place. The Hajj is a pilgrimage to Mecca which Muslims strive to take once in their lifetime. It involves preparation and a set of rituals which must take place.

Core Vocabulary

Pilgrimage - a journey, usually to a holy place

The Hajj - a pilgrimage all Muslims are expected to take at least once

Mecca - holiest city in Islam

Ka'ba - stone building at the centre of Islam's most important mosque