

Why are the five pillars so important to Muslims?

What I will learn (sticky knowledge)

- All Muslims follow the **five Pillars** of Islam – **Shahadah, Salah/Salat, Zakah/Zakat, Sawm** and **Hajj**.
- The **Five Pillars** of Islam are five duties that Muslims must follow.
- Muslims believe that there is only one God, Allah.



What I should already know

- I know that Muslims believe that there is only one God called **Allah**.
- I know that the Muslim holy book is called the **Qur'an**.
- I know that Muslims believe that the **Qur'an** is a record of the exact words that Allah said.

What I will learn next

- Next I will explore the diverse ways in which people practise their beliefs.
- I will investigate the impact of religious belief and teachings on individuals, communities and societies.
- I will explain religious beliefs, practices and commitments, including their transmission by people, texts and traditions.

The Five Pillars

- Shahadah** is the first of the **Five Pillars** of Islam. It is the belief that 'there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger'.
- Salah/Salat** is the belief that Muslims should pray five times a day. Prayer is important as it allows Muslims to communication to Allah, listen to Allah and follow in the footsteps of the prophets.
- Zakah/Zakat** 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.
- Sawm** 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 and smoking during daylight hours.
- Hajj** is the **pilgrimage** to Mecca. All Muslims are expected to go on **Hajj** once in their lifetime if they are physically, financially and mentally able to.

Key Vocabulary

belief	An acceptance that something exists or is true.
5 Pillars	The five basic rituals or obligations that every Muslim must satisfy in order to live a good and responsible life according to Islam.
Shahadah	A key Islamic statement of faith – 'There is no god but Allah, and Muhammed is his messenger.' This is the first pillar of Islam.
Qur'an	The Islamic sacred book.
Wudu	Is the Islamic procedure for the cleansing parts of the body prior to prayer. Wudu involves washing the hands, mouth, nostrils, arms, head and feet with water.
Sawm	Sawm is the fasting. It's the fourth of the Five Pillars of Islam. Muslims are required to fast during Ramadan.
Ramadan	Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, when Muslims fast during daylight hours.
Salah/Salat	Salah/Salat is the obligatory Muslim prayers, performed 5 times each day by Muslims. It is the second Pillar of Islam.
Zakah/Zakat	Zakat is the compulsory giving of a set of proportion of one's wealth to charity. It is regarded as a type of worship and of self-purification. It is the third Pillar of Islam.
Hajj	Hajj is the Pilgrimage to Mecca. All Muslims who are physically able to must make this journey once in a lifetime.
Pilgrimage	A journey, especially a long one, made to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion.