

Key Question

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

The Five Pillars of Islam

Shahadah	Muslims say a declaration of faith.
Salah	Muslims pray five times a day. Before prayer, they must wash themselves and then face Mecca whilst praying.
Zakat	Muslims must donate to charities.
Sawm	Muslims fast for one month during a time called Ramadan.
Hajj	Muslims have to travel to Mecca once in their lifetime, if they can afford to.

Interesting facts

The word 'Islam' means submission and obedience to Allah.

Muhammad is so respected by Muslims that they will say 'peace be upon him' after his name is spoken.

There is always a fault sewn into the prayer mat. This deliberate mistake is there to remind Muslims that only Allah (God) can create perfection, not a mortal man.

No images of Allah, the Prophet Muhammad, people or animals are permitted by Islam; Allah is considered to be beyond human understanding and therefore cannot be portrayed in image, whilst pictures and statues of other figures are avoided because they could be mistakenly worshipped.

Key People

Allah	The Arabic name that Muslims use for God.
Muhammad	The last prophet and the key prophet in Islam.

Key Vocabulary

Islam	The second most popular religion in the world.
Muslim	A follower of the religion of Islam.
Allah	The Arabic name that Muslims use for God.
Prophets	Special messengers sent from Allah.
Five Pillars of Islam	The five things that Muslims are expected to do.
Mosque	The Muslim place of worship.
Qur'an	The Islamic holy book.

The Six Main Beliefs

- 1 Belief in Allah as the one and only God.
- 2 Belief in angels.
- 3 Belief in the holy books.
- 4 Belief in the prophets and that Muhammad was the final prophet.
- 5 Belief in the Day of Judgement (the day when Allah decides if a person goes to heaven or hell).
- 6 Belief in predestination (the belief that Allah has already planned out what will happen).

Key Learning: What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to Allah?

1	What is Islam? Introduce Islam. Explain that people who follow the Islam religion are called Muslims. Allah is the name Muslims use for their God. Discuss Muhammad being seen as the founder of Islam, but that he was the last prophet sent by Allah. Muhammad is so highly respected that Muslims will say “peace be upon him” whenever his name is mentioned. Before Muhammad, many other the prophets were sent by Allah. Show map of world and locate key countries. Explain Islam was founded in Saudi Arabia.
2	What do Muslims believe? Explain overarching belief that there is only one god (Allah). After this, Muslims have 6 main beliefs and that along with the key Muslim beliefs, Muslims are also expected to do certain things. These are called the ‘five pillars of Islam. Introduce the pillars, explaining that they are five rules by which they live their lives. Link to rules in other religions.
3	What is the Islamic Holy Book? Explain that Muslims believe the Qur’an is a record of the exact words revealed by Allah through the Archangel Gabriel to Prophet Muhammad. Explain its importance to those following Islam. Introduce ‘Hafiz’ – people who memorise the Qur’an and explain they are held in high regard. Watch video clip about the Qur’an, make notes and discuss how the Qur’an is similar and different to holy books in other religions.
4	How do Muslims pray? Introduce place of worship for Muslims – the Mosque. Show images of different mosques and explain when Muslims attend. Watch video with tour of a mosque and discuss key features spotted. Explain about prayer mats and the reason they are used. Show images of various prayer mats and consider similarities, differences and what can be seen in the designs; no human or animals are depicted (out of respect for Allah). Discuss the inclusion of a fault in the prayer mats as a reminder that only Allah can create perfection. Design own prayer mat.
5	Who is the Prophet Muhammad? How do you think the Qur’an came to be? Discuss how the bible was written, was the Qur’an created in the same way? Reveal that the Qur’an was written by somebody called Muhammad, he is an extremely important figure for Muslims. Learn the story of Muhammad and perform his story as a class.
6	What is Ramadan? Introduce Ramadan (the holiest month in Islamic calendar, when the Qur’an was revealed to Prophet Muhammed), the principles and rules to follow when fasting, who fasts, morning meal and how fast is broken. Discuss how it must feel for Muslims to fast in this way and why they do this. Share information on Eid – the first day after the end of Ramadan where their fast is broken. Write a diary in role as a Muslim the night before Eid-ul-fitr to reflect on the meaning of fasting for the last month.