

Key Vocabulary	
Mecca	Mecca is an important place to Muslims . It is where Muhammad was born. Muslims face Mecca to pray and try to visit it sometime during their lives.
Hajj	The name Muslims give to the special pilgrimage to Mecca .
The Qur'an	The holy book of Islam .
Ramadan	A Muslim festival where Muslims fast during the daylight and only eat after the sun has set.
fast	A period of time when Muslims do not eat.
mosque	Muslim place of worship.
pilgrimage	A journey to a special place of religious meaning.

Place of Worship

The **Muslim** place of worship is called a **mosque**. Services are held in **mosques** every day. The most important service for **Muslims** is on a Friday.

Mosques often have a domed roof. There are no images of people or animals in **mosques**. They are decorated with patterns and words from **the Qur'an**.

Muslims take off their shoes before going into the **mosque** and wash before they pray. **Muslims** pray kneeling on the floor on a prayer mat. The wall of the **mosque** which faces **Mecca** is called the qibla wall. It has an empty arch to show the direction of Mecca.

The Qur'an

The **Muslim** holy book is called **the Qur'an**. **Muslims** believe that it is a record of the exact words that Allah said.



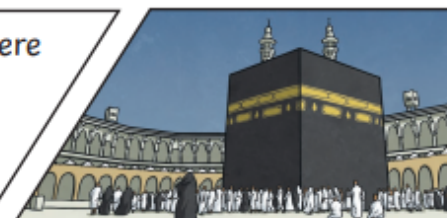
Eid al-Fitr

The main **Muslim** festivals are: **Ramadan**, Eid-al-Fitr, Eid-al-Adha, Dhu al-Hijja. During **Ramadan**, **Muslims** try to give up bad habits and become better **Muslims** by praying more.

Muslim Festivals

Mecca

Mecca is an important place to **Muslims**. It is where **Muhammad** was born and the direction that **Muslims** face when they pray five times a day. **Muslims** are expected to make a **pilgrimage** to **Mecca** once in their lifetime.



Symbol of Islam

There is no official symbol of **Islam**, but the star and crescent symbol is the symbol most commonly associated with Islam.

