**What is Islam?**

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| **Directions:** Watch this *Introduction to Islam* from the Oprah Winfrey Network **(https://youtu.be/wgP\_OSOS3IA),** read the text, and examine the images below, and respond to the questions. |

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| **Name of Followers** | Muslims | |
| **Name of God** | Allah | |
| **Place of Origin** | Abrahamic religions are the monotheistic religions of the Middle East that trace their common origin to a person named Abraham. The three largest Abrahamic religions are Judaism (1000s B.C.E.), Christianity (30s C.E.) and Islam (600s C.E.) In the Qur’an, the holy book of Islam, Christians and Jews are referred to "People of the Book" because they are followers of monotheistic Abrahamic religions. All the Abrahamic religions were established in current-day Middle East and are connected by a common belief in the same god and recognition of many of the same prophets.  **https://docs.google.com/a/homercentral.org/drawings/d/spEjDJ9M4mEfZ9lhBOYbg9w/image?w=368&h=315&rev=1&ac=1**    Image was modified by New Visions ([CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/) license).                                                                      Original [image](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BlankMap-Middle_East.svg) is courtesy of Wikimedia and is in the public domain. | **1. Why are Muslims, Christians and Jews considered Abrahamic religions?**    **2. What do Muslims call Christians and Jews? Why?**    **3. In what order were the Abrahamic religions established?**    **4. What are the three main commonalities between all Abrahamic religions?** |
| **Founder and/or Major Figures** | **Muhammad,** was a merchant born in the Arabian city of Mecca. Muslims consider Muhammad to be the final prophet sent by God to mankind. Muslims revere other prophets including Abraham, Jesus, and Moses. | **5. In addition to Prophet Muhammad, who are the other important prophets in Islam?** |
| **Holy Texts** | **The Qur’an** is the holy book for Muslims. Muslims believe it was revealed in stages to the Prophet Muhammad over 23 years and written down into book form after Prophet Muhammad’s death. Muslims believe the Qur’an is the sacred word of God. Muslims also believe that the Qur’an corrects any errors in previous holy books such as the Old and New Testaments. There are 114 chapters and the Qur'an is written in Arabic. | **6. According to Muslim belief, how long did it take for the entire Qur’an to be revealed to Muhammad?** |
| **Symbols** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/0SGdbt25kWrzlOFgc2ygKDQowLGb6jedXG6OLkglDsCExfeQOKj9nhAO8wSUmYKANRF9_XsCu5W58l5iNBRohgg9pUp75MN0hkP28RVc9eb3WNUQPsfbJYzIt9WhNJ7CYJW-xpsM** | The star and crescent symbol only became associated with Islam in the mid-20th century. |   [Crescent Moon](https://thenounproject.com/search/?q=islam%20crescent&i=269058) by Federico Panzano is published on the Noun Project under the [CC BY 3.0 US](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/us/) license. | |
| **Beliefs and Practices** | * Muslims are **monotheistic** and believe that there is only one God, Allah, which is the Arabic name for the same god worshipped by Jewish people and Christians. * **Main Beliefs:** (1) Allah is the one and only God (2) Angels exist (3) The Qur'an and Hadith are holy books (4) Belief in the prophets mentioned in the Torah and Holy Bible including Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus, and others and that Muhammad is the final prophet (5) Belief in the Day of Judgment when Allah will determine if you go to heaven or hell (6) Belief that Allah has the knowledge of all that will happen, but that it does not prevent humans from having free will. * **Beliefs About Jesus:** Unlike Christians, Muslims do not believe that Jesus is God or the son of God. Jesus is heavily discussed in the Qur’an as an important prophet but not as the son of God. * **Sharia Law:** Sharia Law, or Islamic Law, is a set of rules that come from the Qur'an (the Muslim holy book), the Hadith (sayings attributed to the prophet Muhammad) and fatwas (the rulings of Islamic scholars) | **8. How do Muslims view Jesus differently than Christians?** |
| **Places of Worship** | Muslims worship in **mosques**, houses of worships that point towards Mecca. They look different depending on where they are and who built them.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/CGs6L46Jn7lfqrBwpPcv2Sn8ITxtynSx1649uLSl416KTNoC8RAdvzDqGNNTvlW215SHFwoHpplMF3TohRkIqUm1VIoEkipN9Djp_cmHm4gFL1NIhPzBD51Ma7CC0AsI5Z4zI_wiBadshahi Mosque in Lahore, Pakistan.  [Image](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Badshahi_Mosque_July_1_2005_pic32_by_Ali_Imran_(1).jpg) is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.5 Generic license. | https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/TqXx1IsOTu_KDD9TGt83rTgx1i6mmjMbvIUi6OfXYopKsgbjnMpn3JL_nb2UPa2RyuLE87Ds0rcUnUl_VysAxrpsLdzG7bhidT9cjiRyL9eyZf31OsE5wnC2DU4cmUmCI2xEF3M-  Sheikh Lotfallah Mosque, Isfahan, Iran.  [Image](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sheikh_Lotfallah_Esfahan.JPG) is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Generic license. | https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/TDAY3jXlTFIs8zgVjuDGiuJgFngLMCY1202d262hgx5Sopl5bfh8t_lFmTrX8mKJ7pOHvj1WwgNhs6Tauh1aFOmkNNzXYndMte7btZHblBEF4haiz3Y9jc1bsZkXG2fR7dS2GMhK  Great Mosque of Xi'an — Xi'an, China.  [Image](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:1_great_mosque_xian_2011.JPG) is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International, 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic license.. | | |
| **Names of Leaders** | Spiritual leaders in Islam are called **imams** and **shaykhs.** | |
| **Holidays** | **Ramadan** is a holy month of fasting, introspection and prayer for Muslims, the followers of Islam. Fasting is one of the five fundamental principles of Islam. Each day during Ramadan, Muslims do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset. They are also supposed to avoid impure thoughts and bad behavior. Muslims break their daily fasts by sharing meals with family and friends, and the end of Ramadan is celebrated with a three-day festival known as Eid al-Fitr, one of Islam’s major holidays.  **Source:** http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/ramadan | |
| **Moral/Ethical Code of Conduct** | **Five Pillars**                                Image modified by New Visions from [Five pillars of Islam.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Five_pillars_of_Islam.svg) by Xxedcxx which is published under the [CC BY 3.0 Unported](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/deed.en) license. | |