

Year 5&6 Key Stage 2



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Resource File

Year 5 units of work - Islam - The five pillars of Islam





Lesson 3 The five pillars of Islam

The big picture

Following the understanding gained of the importance of Allah and the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), this lesson looks at the beliefs of Islam. The five pillars of Islam provide a structure for Islamic daily spiritual life. Islam is like a house held up by five strong pillars with central themes of purification and sharing with others. Muslims must not only believe in the five pillars, but also act on their beliefs.

This lesson introduces these core beliefs to the class and gives people the opportunity to reflect on the important tenets of their own lives. People will be encouraged to think about Islamic beliefs and consider the effect these beliefs have on the life of a Muslim. You could introduce Samina and Hanif, whose photographs appear on CD Image Gallery, page 8. These child-friendly members of 'the school family' will allow you to talk about Muslim beliefs using characters with whom the class can identify.

Learning objective

Learning about:

- To know and understand the main beliefs of Islam and to consider the effect these beliefs have on the life of a Muslim.

Learning from:

- To reflect on what the main beliefs are that support their own life.

Success criteria

Learning about:

- Pupils will be able to recount the five pillars of Islam and explain the effect following these beliefs will have on the life of a Muslim.

Learning from:

- Pupils will be able to explain their own beliefs and how holding these beliefs affects their lives.

Religious Education Council Requirements

A1, A2, A3, B1, B3, C2

Resources

- **CD Image Gallery, page 5:** 'The five pillars of Islam'
- **Resource sheet 6:** 'Five pillars'
- **CD Image Gallery, page 8:** 'The school family' (pictures of Samina and Hanif)
- Background information on Samina and Hanif (CD-ROM)

Vocabulary

Hajj, Ramadan, salah, sawm, Shahadah, wuzu, zakah

Key questions ?

What are the five pillars of Islam?

Can you think of a similar commitment in your own life?

Introduction

Introduce the learning objective: 'In this lesson we are going to learn about the main beliefs of Islam and think about how holding these beliefs affects the life of a Muslim. You will also think about what the important beliefs are in your own lives.'

Explain to the children that these beliefs are called the five pillars and that Muslims are expected to uphold these beliefs and act upon them.

Why do they think the beliefs are known as the five pillars? What does the metaphor of the five pillars suggest to them?

Activities

Stimulus

Show the class page 5 of the CD Image Gallery, showing the five pillars of Islam and discuss each of the beliefs.

1. **Shahadah** – the declaration of faith. ‘There is no God except Allah and Muhammad (pbuh) is the Messenger of Allah.’ Ask the class if they can explain how important this belief is to Muslims and what some Muslims have had to give up to uphold their beliefs.
2. **Salah** – daily prayer. Muslims pray five times a day. This prayer can take place anywhere as long as the prayer is completed pointing to the Ka’bah in Makkah, ritual cleaning called ‘wuzu’ has taken place, and a prayer mat or other cloth is used. The prayers are accompanied by a set of bodily postures. Ask the class to discuss how praying five times a day could be challenging and also how it could be helpful to a Muslim’s faith.
3. **Zakah** – giving of money to the poor. 2.5% of all wealth is given annually to poor and needy people to show generosity and community responsibility towards others. Discuss what giving a regular amount of money away makes Muslims feel like. Does the class think they would have to go without anything?
4. **Sawm** – fasting in the month of Ramadan. This fast is for Muslims over the age of twelve, who go without food and drink from dawn until dusk each day. Fasting helps Muslims to appreciate how the poor suffer. It concentrates the mind on what it means to be a Muslim and obey the command of Allah. It also helps build discipline into the life of a Muslim. How does the class think fasting helps Muslims understand other people?
5. **Hajj** – pilgrimage to Makkah. Providing certain conditions are met, for example, the money is available, every Muslim should try to go on pilgrimage to Makkah once in a lifetime. When the pilgrimage is made, all possessions are left behind and everyone dresses in the same way to show their equality before Allah. How does the class think a Muslim’s life might be different whilst they are preparing to go on Hajj and once they have returned?

Response

Organise the class into groups to discuss their own lives and beliefs. Ask them if there are any beliefs they hold or things that they aim to do in their lives that are comparable to the five pillars.

Introduce the writing frame on **Resource sheet 6** and allow the groups to discuss their ideas for each pillar.

After the discussion give people time to fill in the writing frame individually.

Plenary

Give people the opportunity to read out one of their pillars. It should be up to individuals to volunteer to read out their beliefs as they may wish to keep their ideas confidential. The class can then discuss how they are going to keep to their five pillars. What will be hard about keeping them? Will any of them make their lives better?

The ideas could be made into a wall display with ideas written on each pillar.

In a month’s time you could revisit the ideas and evaluate them. Have people managed to undertake any of their five pillars, particularly the first three, and would they change or keep the last two?

Differentiation

(By grouping) anyone who is going to find this activity too difficult could work on a group response led by you or a teaching assistant.

Extension

More able people could be asked to record their ideas by writing a paragraph about how following the five pillars of Islam could challenge the life of a Muslim and how it could also improve a Muslim’s life.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Five pillars

Five things Muslims choose to do	Five things I hope to do in my lifetime
	I will believe...
	Every day I will...
	Every time I get pocket money I will...
	Once a year I will...
	Once in my lifetime I will...