

Five Pillars of Islam

Muslims are asked to put their beliefs into practice by performing certain acts of worship. As in all religions, some people are very strict in performing these duties while others are not.

The five pillars or acts of worship in Islam are:

1. The Declaration of Faith (shahada): The first act of worship is the declaration that “There is no god but God and Muhammad is the prophet of God.” Muslims repeat this statement many times a day during their prayers. It is also repeated during the call to prayer, at a birth, and at the time of death. *This is the shahada written in Arabic calligraphy in the shape of the crescent moon and star, symbols of Islam.*
2. Prayer (salat): Islam prescribes a brief prayer or ritual worship five times each day: at dawn, noon, late afternoon, sunset and night. Muslims perform ablution before prayer, a brief washing of the hands, face, arms and feet. One may pray alone or in a group in any clean location, including a mosque. Sometimes a prayer mat is used. The Friday noon prayer is special to Muslims and is done in a mosque if possible. Muslims face in the direction of Mecca when they pray. Men and women pray in separate parts of the mosque.
3. Charity (zakat): Muslims are required to give to the poor and needy. Islam calls for a specific charity tax called a zakat, based on two and a half percent of one’s income and wealth. In addition to the zakat, Muslims are encouraged to give as much as they can in voluntary charity throughout the year.
4. Fasting (sawm): Muslims are required to fast from sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the lunar calendar. Cannons are often shot off to announce the beginning and end of each day of Ramadan. When fasting, Muslims are not allowed to eat, drink, smoke, or chew gum. Muslims are also supposed to refrain from negative behavior such as lying, cheating, petty arguments, and negative thoughts or behaviors, including getting angry. Muslims are required to start fasting when they reach puberty, although some younger children may fast for part of a day or for a few days of the month. People who are sick, traveling or pregnant may break from the fast but are expected to make up the days later in the year. The elderly and very ill are excused from fasting.



Ramadan was the month in which the Quran began to be revealed to Muhammad. Therefore Muslims are encouraged to read the Quran during this month and often gather in the evenings in mosques to listen to recitations from the Quran.

Eid al-Fitr or the “Festival of the Fast-Breaking” is one of the major Muslim holidays, celebrating the completion of the Ramadan fast and occurs on the first day of the month after Ramadan. This is a day of celebration, prayers, feast and gift-giving.

5. Pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj): Every Muslim is required to make the pilgrimage to Mecca, located in Saudi Arabia, once in their lifetime if they are financially and physically able. Mecca is home to the first house of worship of God, the Kaaba. Muslims all over the world face towards the Kaaba when they pray. All outward symbols of rank and wealth are erased during the pilgrimage, as Muslims from every part of the globe come together for the purpose of worshipping God.



Five Pillars Chart/Poster



Name: _____

Date: _____ Block: _____

Directions:

Learn more about the Five Pillars by completing this reading and chart. Then, design a poster that visually demonstrates your understanding of the five pillars. You may choose to make five separate illustrations or one illustration that shows all five pillars.

Requirements:

1. Read reading about Five Pillars and complete chart.
2. Decide how to represent each of the pillars in a visual way.
3. Complete a rough draft of your poster on the back of this paper. Make sure it includes:
 - Border around the outside of your poster
 - Illustration representing each pillar or one illustration showing them all; your own artwork
 - Minimal writing – headings for pillars are ok
 - Title, name date and block on the back
 - Color; fill space; be neat
4. Complete final draft.

Poster Rubric:

A: 13.5-15 – Illustrations show an excellent understanding of five pillars. All requirements are followed. Poster shows creative and/or unique thought, and is appropriately done.

B: 12-13 – Illustrations show a good understanding of five pillars. All requirements are followed.

C: 10.5-11.5 – Illustrations show an adequate understanding of five pillars. Most requirements are followed.

D: 9-10 – Illustrations show minimal understanding of five pillars. Some requirements are not followed.

****Final Draft of poster is due Monday, September 15. (You can turn in early if you're done!)***

Pillar	Arabic Word	English Translation	Facts (<u>phrases, own words, bullets</u>)
I	Shahada	Declaration of Faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No god but Allah, Muhammad is his prophet
II	Salat	Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Mecca • Wash hands/feet • 5 times/day
III	Zakat	Charity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5% of income • Give to those less fortunate
IV	Ramadan/ Sawm	Fasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No food, drink, gum, smoking • Based on lunar calendar • Sunrise to sunset
V	Hajj	Pilgrimage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circle Kaaba • In Mecca, Saudi Arabia • Once in lifetime

