

KNOWLEDGE MAP: ISLAM YEAR 7

SUMMARY

This unit introduces the beliefs of Islam, ranging from beliefs about God to beliefs about the events of the life of Prophet Muhammad and practices such as the 5 Pillars

ISLAM: The Basics

There are an estimated 1.6 billion Muslims in the world today

(23 per cent of the world's population), making Islam the world's second largest religion after Christianity. It is also the fastest growing religion in the world.

Muslims believe in one God (Allah) and they worship him because he is the divine creator. Islam teaches that, through the centuries, God revealed his truth to many special people or prophets. Islam is believed by some to be the perfected version of the religion that was revealed to Jews and Christians earlier but some of the messages they received were corrupted by humans. This is why there are some figures who appear in Islam that also appear in other religions such as Adam, Noah, Moses and Jesus. All of these figures are seen as prophets in Islam.

However, most importantly, God spoke to the last and greatest Prophet, Muhammad, in special messages that were collected together in the form of the Qur'an.

KEY TERMS

Tawhid: The belief in One God

Prophet: A messenger of God

Allah: The one God in Islam.

Jihad: The literal meaning of Jihad in Arabic is struggle or effort

Teachings:

'Say: He is Allah, the One and Only' (Qur'an)

'Pilgrimage to the house is a duty owed by people who are able to undertake it' (Qur'an)

The Story of Muhammad

Muhammad is considered by Muslims to be a messenger and prophet of God.

Muslims believe he was the last of the Islamic prophets, which included Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus.

Born in 570 in the Arabian city of Mecca, according to Islamic beliefs it was here, at age 40, in the month of Ramadan, that he received his first message from God delivered by the Angel Jibril/Gabriel. Muhammad immediately knew that these words came from God. He listened carefully and was able to remember everything the angel said. Muhammad knew that the people needed to hear this message, so he started preaching what God had told him, that Allah is the one true God, and giving yourself to him is the only way to worship him. He said that he himself was only a prophet and messenger of God.

Muhammad continued to receive messages from God for the rest of his life, and these messages became the Qur'an, which is the Holy Book of Islam. To Muslims, Muhammad and the other prophets are so holy, that the phrase 'Peace Be Upon Him' is always said when their names are mentioned.

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Angels

In Islam, it is believed that angels have been created out of light, before the creation of humans from clay/earth. They are naturally obedient creatures, worshipping Allah and carrying out His commands. Angels have no free choice, so it is simply not in their nature to disobey.

Several angels are mentioned by name in the Quran, with a description of their responsibilities:

Jibril (Gabriel) - in charge of communicating Allah's words to His prophets

Israfeel (Raphael) - in charge of blowing the trumpet to mark the Day of Judgment

Mika'il (Michael) - in charge of weather, natural forces and provision for human needs

Munkar and Nakir - The angels responsible for questioning the soul of a person who has died.

Jihad

The literal meaning of Jihad in Arabic is struggle or effort

Muslims use the word Jihad to two different kinds of struggle:

A believer's internal struggle to live out the Muslim faith as well as possible/ the struggle to build a good Muslim society (GREATER JIHAD)

Holy war: the struggle to defend Islam, with force if necessary (LESSER JI-

The Qur'an

The Qur'an is the holy book for Muslims just like the Bible is for Christians.

It is written in Arabic.

Muslims believe that no part of the Qur'an can be changed or re-written because it is the word of God and so it is perfect.

The 5 Pillars of Islam

The most important Islamic practices are the Five Pillars of Islam. The five pillars of Islam are Shahada, Salah, Zakat, Sawm, and Hajj.

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Shahada (Faith)

The declaration of faith in one God (Allah) and His messenger (peace be upon him).

Salah (Prayer)

The ritual prayer required of every Muslim five times a day throughout their lifetime.

Zakat (Almsgiving)

The act of giving a portion of a Muslim's wealth to those in need throughout their lifetime.

Sawm (Fasting)

The act of fasting during the holy month of Ramadan.

Hajj (Pilgrimage)

The sacred pilgrimage to Mecca required of every Muslim at least once in their lifetime if it is within their means.