

Muhammad, Mecca and the Hajj

If possible watch this clip about Hajj:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks2-my-life-my-religion-muslim-pilgrimage-hajj/zndfcqt>

Mecca

Mecca is the holiest city in the Islamic world. Every year, millions of Muslims take a pilgrimage to Mecca. This is called the Hajj, where they follow in the footsteps of Muhammad (pbuh). All Muslims who are able to perform the Hajj are expected to do so at least once in their life. The Kaaba and Masjid al-Haram, the holiest mosque in Islam is here. Mecca is closed to non-Muslims except for some journalists reporting on the Hajj.

The Kaaba, the small cubical building which Muslims pray towards is believed to have been built by Ibrahim and has been a religious center ever since. Muslims believed that God commanded Ibrahim to send his second wife Hajar and her son Ismail there. They found the Zamzam Well which led to people settling nearby, and thus Makkah was born. When Ismail was big enough, he helped his father to build the Kaaba. The Kaaba is the place towards which Muslims turn in prayer. This is known as the Qibla.

Hajj is a religious pilgrimage made by Muslims. During this pilgrimage, Muslims journey to the city of Mecca. Hajj takes place once a year, during the twelfth month in the Muslim calendar. Nowadays, well over two million Muslims make the trip each year.

Hajj

Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, which means that it is one of the five basic duties for Muslims. Many Muslims will try to go on Hajj at least once in their lifetime if possible. Going on Hajj is an act of worship.

During Hajj, the pilgrims perform certain rituals because the prophet Muhammad taught them to do so. Lots of these rituals were actually also performed by Muhammad himself when he went on Hajj. Many of the rituals remind Muslims of stories about people who are honoured in Islam, such as Hajar and Ibrahim.

Key Challenge:

Think of a place that you have always wanted to visit. Imagine going there and write a postcard or diary entry about your experience. Focus on how it felt to finally get there and experience it.