

**Islam:  
Basic Beliefs  
&  
Practices**

**For this Promethean  
you will need the  
following:**

**-Pencil**

**-Fill in the blank notes**

**-Open mind! :)**

**As each section appears on the screen find the corresponding section in the notes, with the help of your classmates we will match each term to the right blank and discuss Islam as we progress**

The Arabian Peninsula is a crossroads of three continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe. Most of the people living in this area will adopt the ideas or Bedouin lifestyle and form tribes.

These tribesmen were fierce fighters and will form a powerful empire in the 600's & 700's. A few Bedouins will leave the nomadic tribes to settle into farming/trading communities. Traders will trade silk, spices, with nomad from around the world through the Arabian Peninsula.



The City of Mecca became a very important stop on trade routes. During holy months the tribesmen would come into town to worship an ancient shrine. The Ka'aba as well as over 360 gods were associated with this shrine. However, the concept of monotheism or belief in one god, named Allah, was not new to the Arabian Peninsula. Many Christians and Jews lived in the area peacefully. In 570 A.D. Muhammad was born.

**Muhammad**

**Abraham**

Muhammad was born into a powerful Meccan family, but he was orphaned at age six. He was raised by his grandfather and uncle. They were unable to provide him with a great deal of formal education and he began working on a caravans in his early teens. Over time he became the business manager for a wealthy widow named Khadijah. When Muhammad was 25 he and Khadijah married. It was a good relationship and business partnership. Muhammad gradually became more and more interested in religion



At the age of 40, Muslims believe that the angel Gabriel came down from heaven and spoke with Muhammad while he meditating in a nearby cave. Allah told Muhammad he would become the messenger of God. He took the encounter seriously and began preaching that all other gods must be abandoned and everyone must only worship Allah. Muhammad believed he was the last of the prophets. This is the basic idea of Islam. Islam literally means submission to the will of Allah. And a follower is called a Muslim meaning one who has submitted.



As Muhammad began preaching people in Medina became nervous; they feared he would drive away all the people who came to worship at the ancient shrine. Some early Muslims were even beaten up and stoned out of fear. Therefore, Muhammad and his followers relocated to Mecca. When he moved many tribesmen that he encountered converted to Islam. Finally, due to the hostility from Mecca, Muhammad became a military leader to defend his people & new faith.



In 630 the Prophet and 10,000 followers marched to Mecca, the leaders immediately surrendered as they were outnumbered. Inside the city Muhammad marched directly to the ancient shrine and destroyed all the tribal gods. The site of the ancient shrine became the first place where Muslims worshipped in Mecca so that, "the truth could come." Two years after returning to Mecca, Muhammad died.





# **Beliefs and Practices Of Islam**

The main teaching of Islam is that there is only one God, Allah. There is good and bad in this world and it is up to the individual to be responsible for his/her actions. The holy book of Islam is the Qur'an or Koran.

To be a Muslim, a person **MUST** fulfill five pillars!



1. Faith - The person must agree that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad was the messenger of God.

2. Prayer - Muslims must face Mecca five times a day to pray. Usually they assemble at a Mosque to do so.

3. Alms - Muhammad believed everyone had a duty to take care of the less fortunate. Muslims must give money to the poor.

4. **Fasting** - During the holy month of **Ramadan**, Muslims **fast**. They do not eat or drink from **sunrise** to **sunset**. A small meal is eat at the end of each day. Today, in many Muslim countries the government will re-arrange the entire day to accomodate Ramadan. People **sleep** during the day and work/eat at night. **Young children** and **pregnant** women are not allowed to fast.

5. **Pilgrimage** - Muslims must perform the **hajj** or pilgrimage to Mecca at least **once** in their lifetime. During the pilgrimage everyone wears the exact same outfit to symbolize that they are **equals** before God.

**Ramadan**

Muslims do not separate personal issues from religious issues. Islam is a complete way of life and all answers can be found in church. That is why many Muslim nations do not separate religion & state. Much of their law comes directly from the Qur'an. The law code regulates moral conduct, business, marriage, etc. Muslims do not eat pork, drink alcohol, and Friday afternoons are set aside for prayer much as Christians worship on Sunday

**Christians** & **Jews** are protected in the Islamic faith as "**peoples of the book**" and are not to be **persecuted**. They are considered to be in the **second** tier of the communit after Muslims.



**Let's watch Muslims complete each of the five pillars. As the video plays be sure that you are watching for dress, styles of worship, and are jotting down questions for discussion!**

**Tomorrow we will be learning & recreating several Muslim achievements in science, math, music, art, and literature! Be sure to come ready to create!**

