

مَسْجِدٌ

What comes to mind when  
you hear “Islam”



# ISLAM FACTS

- The word “Islam” means “submission to the will of God.”
- Followers of Islam are called Muslims.
- Muslims are monotheistic and worship one, all-knowing God, who in Arabic is known as Allah.
- Followers of Islam aim to live a life of complete submission to Allah. They believe that nothing can happen without Allah’s permission, but humans have free will.
- Islam teaches that Allah’s word was revealed to the prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel.

# ISLAM FACTS

- Muslims believe several prophets were sent to teach Allah's law. They respect some of the same prophets as Jews and Christians, including Abraham, Moses, Noah and Jesus. Muslims contend that Muhammad was the final prophet.
- Mosques are places where Muslims worship.
- Some important Islamic holy places include the Kaaba shrine in Mecca, the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, and the Prophet Muhammad's mosque in Medina.
- The Quran (or Koran) is the major holy text of Islam. The Hadith is another important book. Muslims also revere some material found in the Judeo-Christian Bible.



# ISLAM FACTS

- Followers worship Allah by praying and reciting the Quran. They believe there will be a day of judgment, and life after death.
- A central idea in Islam is “jihad,” which means “struggle.” While the term has been used negatively in mainstream culture, Muslims believe it refers to internal and external efforts to defend their faith. Although rare, this can include military jihad if a “just war” is needed.

# Islam



- Origins in the teachings of Muhammad, born in 570 AD.
  - Muhammad spent most of his life in Mecca and Medina, in present day Saudi Arabia.
- Initially spread through expansion diffusion during Muhammad's life.
  - Expansion diffusion: the spread of ideas through contact between cultures
- Islam spread through conquest over the next 700 years, engulfing most of Central Asia and North Africa.
  - This became the Ottoman Empire
- Today, Islam is prominent in Central Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa.
- It is still one of the 3 most prominent religions in the world.



# The Beginning

Islam begins when the **angel Gabriel** reveals the **Koran** (Qur'an) to Muhammad.

The location of this was near **Mecca**.

This took place in the 600s AD.









# The Beginning

Muhammad wrote the Koran, but Muslims believe that Allah (God) put the words into Muhammad's head.

Muhammad began preaching his beliefs in Mecca, which created tension because it was a polytheistic city. He was forced to leave because his new religion was threatening.

Islam means "to submit to God." A muslim is "one who submits to God."

Muslims call god "Allah."

The image shows the Arabic word 'Allah' (الله) written in a stylized, bold black calligraphic font. The letters are connected, with the 'Alif' (ا) at the top, followed by the 'Lam' (ل) and 'Lam' (ل), and the 'Ha' (ه) at the bottom. There are small diacritical marks above the 'Lam' and 'Lam' characters.

# Muhammad the Soldier

Muhammad slowly built up an army to take over Mecca. By 624 the first battles occurred, by 629 the Muslims had conquered Mecca.





# Taking over Mecca

Upon taking over Mecca, **Muhammad and the Muslims destroyed all religious worship idols there.** They were worshipping polytheistic gods, and the Muslims were not going to tolerate it.

**However, they did tolerate other monotheistic religions as long as they paid a tax (Judaism).**





# Abu Bakr vs. Ali Talib

-Father-in-law of prophet Muhammad.

-Prominent companion of Muhammad.

-Fought side-by-side with Muhammad's in Muhammad's many battles.

SUNNI

-Son in law and cousin of prophet Muhammad.

-Took place in several of the raids Muslims had against Mecca.

-Had direct bloodline to Muhammad.

SHIA

# The Election

In order to decide who is worthy to be the next **Caliph** (the leader of the Muslim community) the Muslims had a vote.

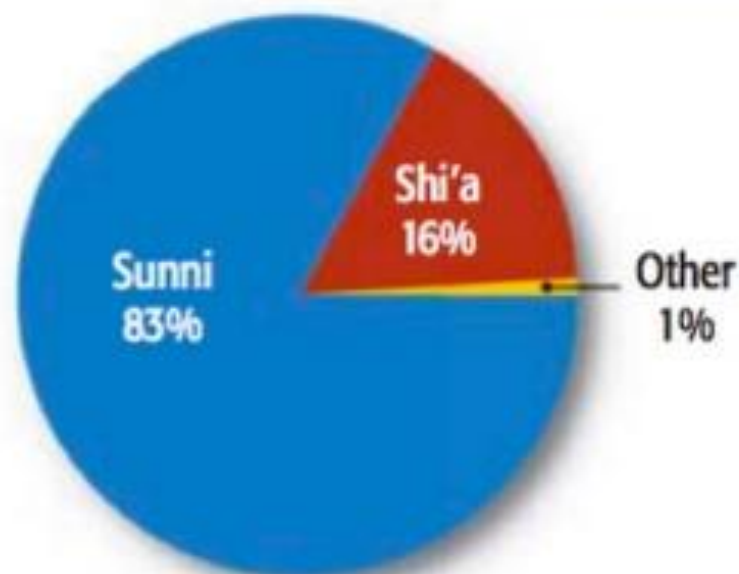
**Abu Bakr won the majority.**

Despite the results, the Talib supporters continued to insist that Talib was the true successor. This began the divide known as Sunni and Shias.

# Sunni / Shia Divide

Following Muhammad's death, two groups would continue to exist in Islam, the Sunnis and Shias. **The divide still exists today,** and is the root to many geo-political issues in the middle eastern region.

**Percentage Today  
of Sunni and Shi'a  
Muslims Worldwide**





# FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

**Mandatory  
practices  
in the  
religion  
of Islam.**



## Muslims must perform these duties to show submission to Allah

Shahadah



A declaration of faith.  
"There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger."

Salah



Pray facing Mecca five times a day: dawn, noon, afternoon evening and night.

Zakat



It is a Muslims duty to give 2.5% of their income to the poor/needy.

Sawm



During the holy month of Ramadan, Muslims cannot eat or drink from dawn to dusk.

Hajj



If possible, Muslims must go on a pilgrimage to Mecca once in their life.



# “HAJJ”

Pilgrimage to Mecca





# Major Muslim Holidays



- **Ramadan** - main holiday observed by all Muslims
- The whole 9th month of the Muslim lunar calendar, during which Muslims avoid having evil thoughts/actions
- Celebrates receiving the Qur'an
- Cannot eat or drink from sunrise to sunset

# Expansion of Islam

## The Early Spread of Islam (632 - 750 AD)

