



Year 8 Pilgrimage key facts Islam - Hajj

You are expected to know all of the information in this booklet.
You will be assessed on this knowledge.

- Hajj is a pilgrimage that every Muslim tries to make at least once in their lifetime.
- Pilgrims travel to Makkah, in Saudi Arabia.
- When approaching Makkah, pilgrims must enter into a spiritual state of holiness or purity known as ihram. This involves performing ritual washing, praying and putting on ihram clothing. Men dress in two sheets of white cloth and women wear a single colour. While in this state, pilgrims are not allowed to do various things, including smoke, shave, wear perfume or jewellery, or cut their nails. It is a time to focus wholly on God.
- On arriving in Makkah, pilgrims head towards the Grand Mosque, which is home to the Ka'aba. Pilgrims walk around the Ka'aba seven times in an anticlockwise direction.
- After circling the Ka'aba, pilgrims walk or run back and forth between two hills, Safa and Marwah. Muslims believe that Ibrahim's wife rushed between these two hills in search of water for her dehydrated son, Ismail.

Hajj: At a glance

Saudi Arabia will host almost 2 million Muslims from around the world during the six-day pilgrimage called Hajj.



- During hajj, pilgrims stand on or near Mount Arafat from noon to sunset, praying for forgiveness from God. This is a significant location, because it is believed to be where God forgave Adam and Hawwa (Eve) after they disobeyed him by eating fruit from a tree that was forbidden to them, and also where Muhammad delivered his final sermon.
- After Mount Arafat, pilgrims collect stones and head to Mina to throw the stones at three pillars (jamarat), which represent Satan. This is done to remember the willingness of the prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his son, Ismail, despite Satan telling him not to. It also symbolises Muslims' own rejection of evil. The stoning of Satan is often followed by the open-air sacrifice of an animal such as a goat or sheep. The meat can be eaten in Mina, but is often frozen and sent to poor Muslims in other countries.
- At the end of hajj, pilgrims leave the state of ihram, and men will join a queue outside one of Makkah's many barber shops to have their heads shaved. Women usually just have one lock of their hair removed. Finally, pilgrims complete their pilgrimage by returning to the Ka'aba and circling it seven more times.



Year 8 Pilgrimage key facts Hinduism - Kumbh Mela

You are expected to know all of the information in this booklet.
You will be assessed on this knowledge.

- The Kumbh Mela is a Hindu festival that takes place once every three years.
- The Kumbh Mela is one of the largest gatherings in the world. Up to 30 million pilgrims might attend every day.
- The location of the Kumbh Mela rotates between four different venues in India.
- According to medieval Hinduism, the gods spilled drops of Amrita (the drink of immortality) at four places, while transporting it in a kumbh (pot) to take it away from the demons. These four places are the present-day sites of the Kumbh Mela.
- In the Kumbh Mela pilgrimage, people bathe in the sacred rivers of India to get rid of bad karma.
- The River Ganges is the holiest river for Hindus as it is considered to be an extension of Lord Shiva.
- The Kumbh Mela is famous for attracting many ascetics, or sadhus, who often make the pilgrimage in large groups.
- For ordinary Hindus, the chance of seeing the sadhus is an important reason to make the pilgrimage. The sight of a holy man or woman is darshan: it is considered a blessing to have the chance to see such people.

