



Unit U2.8 What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?

Enquiry Questions

- Who are the Muslims in your region?
- What helps Muslims through the journey of life?
- Why is Zakah/charity important to Muslims?
- How is charity important to you?
- Why do Muslims want to go on pilgrimage?
- Where do Muslims get guidance for living?

What will I know by the end of the unit?

According to the 2011 Census there are 51,229 Muslims in the South West of England including 22, 019 Muslims in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

There are two main groups of Muslims, Sunni (around 90% of Muslims) and Shi'a.

Five Pillars of Islam

The 5 pillars are an expression of *ibadah* (worship and belief in action). The five pillars of Islam provide a structure for Islamic daily spiritual life. Islam is like a house held up by five strong pillars with central themes of purification and sharing with others.

The five pillars of Islam are:

Shahadah: a belief in one God, and Muhammad as God's Messenger.

Salah: prayer, five times a day,

Sawm: fasting during daylight hours in the month of Ramadan

Zakat: the obligatory giving of alms, a percentage of savings once a year

Hajj: pilgrimage to Makkah.

Muslims get their good advice from a variety of sources including;

Qur'an: Muslims believe the words came directly from Allah and that they should follow the words and instructions of the Qur'an exactly.

Sunnah: second most important source of authority. It means 'customs' or 'practices' and refers to the actions of Muhammad. These represent model behaviour for Muslims, and they try to imitate the life of Muhammad.

Hadith: words, actions and instructions of the Prophet Muhammad as reported by the people around him during his life.

Key Vocabulary

Islam, Muslim, Sunni, Shi'a, mosque, Five Pillars of Islam (Shahadah, Salah, Sawm, Zakat, Hajj), belief, prayer, fasting, charity, pilgrimage, Muhammad, Ramadan, Mecca/Makkah, Qu'ran, Sunnah, Hadith, customs, traditions, practices, signify