

Wonderful words

Muslim: a follower of the religion of Islam, someone who submits to the will of Allah

Ibadah: the word for worship in Arabic

Submission: accepting a superior force and doing what they want

Ramadan: the month in the Muslim calendar when those who can fast do so

Shahadah: the basic statement of belief for Muslims, the first of the Five Pillars

Salah: compulsory daily prayer for Muslims, the second of the Five Pillars

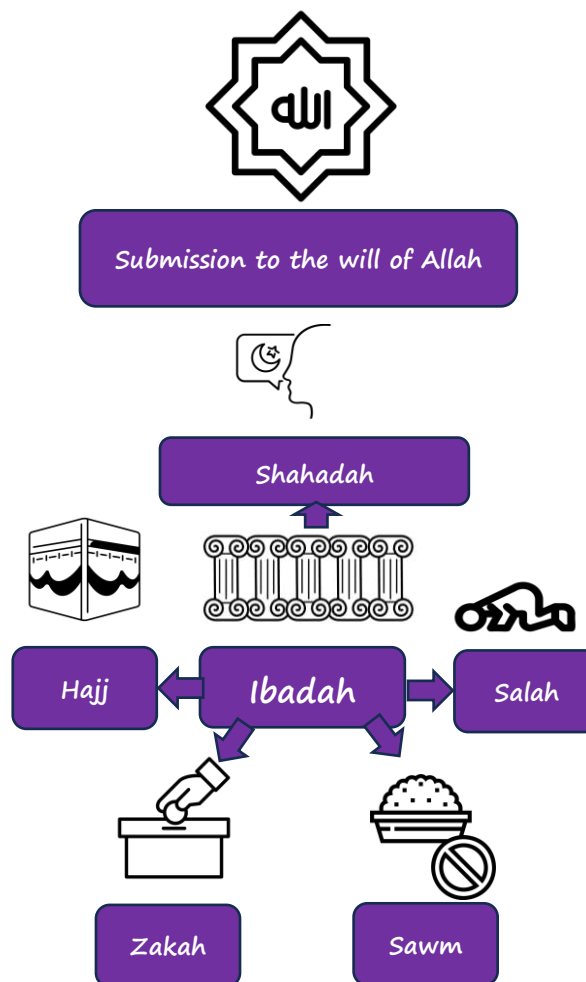
Sawm: fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, the third of the Five Pillars

Zakah: compulsory giving of charity every year, the fourth of the Five Pillars

Hajj: the pilgrimage to Makkah during the month of Dhul Hijjah that all Muslims should make during their lives if they can, the final of the Five Pillars

Pilgrimage: a journey taken for religious reasons

So how does it all work?



Important information

Approximately 24% of the world's population would call themselves a **Muslim** and approximately 7% of the population of England and Wales would do so as well. The word Islam means **submission** to the will of Allah and the word Muslim is not only the name of someone who follows Islam but also someone who submits to the will of Allah. Many Muslims will perform five activities that show they worship Allah, this is known as **ibadah** or worship. These five activities are known as the Five Pillars of Islam. The **shahadah** is a statement of belief that Muslims say and believe, showing there is only one god and that Muhammad is the Seal of the Prophets of Allah.

Muslims must pray everyday and this compulsory prayer is known as **Salah**. For 28 days every year those Muslims who are able to will fast during the month of **Ramadan** and this fasting is known as **Sawm**. Every year many Muslims will give charity to people who are less fortunate than themselves and this is known as **Zakah**. The final pillar which some Muslims will do but which is not compulsory but is expected if they can is the **pilgrimage** to Makkah. This is known as the **Hajj**.