

Teacher Reference Guide for Student Handout 2 – Islam Basics

Part I: Vocabulary—*Stop and jot* Write down what you think each of the following words means. Then take notes on the definitions from the PowerPoint.

Word and Pronunciation	What I think it means...	Definition from the PowerPoint
Islam [iss-LAAM]	<i>Answers will vary.</i>	The name of the religion founded by Muhammad around 632 CE
Muslim [MOOS-lim]	<i>Answers will vary.</i>	A follower of Islam. It translates to “one who submits to god.”
Allah [al-LAH]	<i>Answers will vary.</i>	Arabic word for “god”
Mosque [massk] or masjid [MESS-jid]	<i>Answers will vary.</i>	Muslim house of worship
Qur’an [kur-AHN]	<i>Answers will vary.</i>	Holy Book of Islam

Part II: Five Basic Beliefs of Islam

Muslims believe in:	My notes on the beliefs—extra details, something this reminds me of, etc.
1. One God	<i>Answers will vary. Allah. Same god as the Judeo-Christian version. A god that is immortal, all knowing, present everywhere, and all powerful; shahada</i>
2. The prophets	<i>Answers will vary. Muhammad and the ones (Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus) before him</i>
3. The justice of God	<i>Answers will vary. God is fair.</i>
4. The Imams (or apostles) of God	<i>Answers will vary. Shi’ite and Sunni have different views of imams. For Sunni Muslims, imams are worship leaders, but Shi’ites believe that imams are chosen by God to be perfect examples for the faithful and to lead all humanity in all aspects of life.</i>
5. The Day of Judgment	<i>Answers will vary. Final assessment of humanity by God. Annihilation of all life, followed by resurrection and judgment</i>

My notes on the ways in which Islam is similar to Judaism and Christianity:

Answers will vary but should include belief in one god (monotheistic) that is immortal, all knowing, all powerful and omnipresent; all trace origins to the biblical Abraham; main message is to live a moral life in accordance with God’s law; all are based on holy text

Part III: Five Pillars of Islam

Stop and Jot: What is a pillar? What do you think it means if something is considered a pillar of a religion?

The Five Pillars of Islam: The Five Major _____ Duties or Principles _____ of Islam

5 Pillars, the Arabic Words	Explanation	In ONE word, sum up what you think this means
6. <i>shahada</i>	At least once in every Muslim’s life, he or she must sincerely recite aloud “ <i>La ilaha illa Allah wa-Muhammad rasul Allah.</i> ” Translation: “There is no god but God and Muhammad is the prophet of God.”	Confession of faith (more than one word)
7. <i>salat</i>	Muslims must pray five times a day, facing towards Mecca.	Prayer
8. <i>zakat</i>	Muslims give alms to the poor, and support the local Mosque by donating a portion of their income.	Charity
9. <i>Sawm</i>	During the <i>Ramadan</i> , the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, all Muslims must not eat during daylight hours, except the very young or sick.	Fasting
10. <i>hajj</i>	If possible financially and physically, each Muslim must travel to the city of Mecca once in a lifetime.	Pilgrimage

Stop & Jot and Turn & Talk: Appeal of Islam Now what we’ve covered the basic beliefs and duties of Islam, think about would have been appealing to people about Islam during this era. With a partner, list some of the appealing factors: