

Topic: Beliefs of Islam

Standard: 7.2.3 Explain the significance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah as the primary sources of Islamic beliefs, practice, and law, and their influence in Muslims' daily life.)

This section of your textbook will likely cover the Qu'ran, the Five Pillars of Faith, other beliefs of Muslims (possibly including the concept of jihad), the Sunnah, and Sharia law.

For this topic, you may use the following resources:

Qu'ran Excerpts

What Is Jihad

Five Duties In Your Life

Five Pillars of Faith Project Instructions

Five Pillars of Faith Project Rubric

Pillars in Arabic (this goes with the project)

Call To Prayer With Translation Video

The following bullet points are not a step by step lesson plan, but rather a guide of how to use our supplemental materials along with your textbook while covering certain topics of the standard 7.2.3.

- Before teaching specifically about the five pillars of faith, your textbook will most likely teach the students a bit about the Qur'an. Use the **Qu'ran Excerpts** handout so students can analyze a primary source (The Qur'an) and practice analyzing the excerpts. Remember to remind your students that the Qur'an is written in Arabic, and is meant to be read in Arabic. This is why Muslims of different ethnicities that may not come from an Arabic speaking country (people from Asia, Africa, Europe, etc) try to learn Arabic. Translations of the Qu'ran can vary. This would also be the time to play the **Call To Prayer With Translation Video**
- If your textbook does not cover the concept of jihad, you may want to use the **What Is Jihad** handout, as students may have heard this word and associated it with Islam, but may not have a true understanding of the word.
- Before beginning your lesson on the five pillars of faith and other beliefs of Islam, hand out the **Five Duties In Your Life** worksheet. Let students brainstorm with their peers, decide on five mandatory duties in their own lives, and then share with the class. Explain that Muslims have five mandatory duties they must follow in their life, the five pillars of faith. Remember that the pillars of faith are *mandatory duties* of Muslims (Shahadah is done once, and the rest are done either daily, once a year, or once in a lifetime), in addition to other ideas they value such as patience, respect, honesty, etc.
- Before teaching/reading about each pillar, begin with the following questions to spark a discussion. Have them share in partners or whole group. After each question, go

through the information in your textbook about the corresponding pillar, and any other activities you may choose to do.

Questions to start discussion on each pillar:

Shahadah:

Describe one belief or personal conviction you absolutely live by. Why is it so important to you?

Salat:

Describe a ritual you do every day. Why do you do it?

Zakat:

Describe a community service project you have been involved with, or a charity that you would volunteer for and why.

Siyam:

Describe an activity you have been involved in that taught you discipline. Why was it difficult and how did it teach you discipline?

Hajj:

Describe an experience or trip that has a significant impact on your life. What made it so significant?

- After you have sufficiently taught the beliefs of Islam using your textbook and/or other resources provided, a culminating project you may do on the five pillars is the Five Pillars of Faith Project. Please see the **Five Pillars of Faith Project INSTRUCTIONS, Five Pillars of Faith Project RUBRIC, and Five Pillars of Faith Project Arabic Words.**

Al-Fatihah
The first chapter of the Qur'an in Arabic Script

سورة فاتحة الكتاب

مَكِّيَّةٌ وَأَيُّهَا سَبْعَ آيَاتٍ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

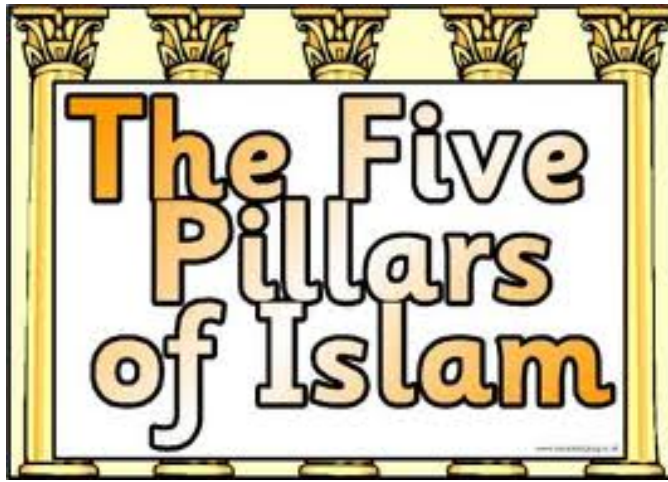
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ * الرَّحْمَنِ

الرَّحِيمِ * مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ * إِيَّاكَ

تَعْبُدُ * وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ * إِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ

الْمُسْتَقِيمَ * صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ

* غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ



If you had to choose 5 mandatory duties for you to include in your life, what would they be and why? (Think about family, education, how you treat others, your ultimate goals in life, etc)

1. _____

Because: _____

2. _____

Because: _____

3. _____

Because: _____

4. _____

Because: _____

5. _____

Because: _____

Five Pillars of Faith Project

Using what you have learned about the pillars of Islam, you will work with your group to create a poster that explains one of the five pillars (Shahadah, Salat, Zakat, Siyam, or Hajj).

You will divide up the work evenly among your group members. On your poster board, the following must be present:

- The name of the pillar
- A one paragraph explanation of what the pillar is (this must be in your own words. Do not copy from the textbook or online)
- At least 3 visuals depicting this pillar (these can be hand drawn or from the Internet – remember no drawings of God or Muhammad)
- 3 key words that you feel best sum up this pillar (these would be “buzz words” for that pillar)
- The name of the pillar in Arabic (either cut out or traced from the “Pillars in Arabic” sheet)
- Answer the question corresponding to your pillar (see questions below). This can be the answer of only one group member.

It is up to you where you place everything on the poster. Make it visually appealing.

Question for each pillar:

Shahadah:

Describe one belief or personal conviction you absolutely live by. Why is it so important to you?

Salat:

Describe a ritual you do every day. Why do you do it?

Zakat:

Describe a community service project you have been involved with, or a charity that you would volunteer for and why.

Siyam:

Describe an activity you have been involved in that taught you discipline. Why was it difficult and how did it teach you discipline?

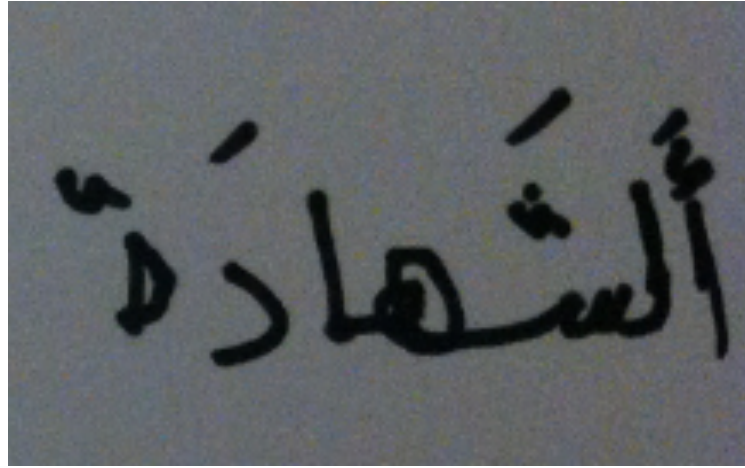
Hajj:

Describe an experience or trip that has a significant impact on your life. What made it so significant?

RUBRIC

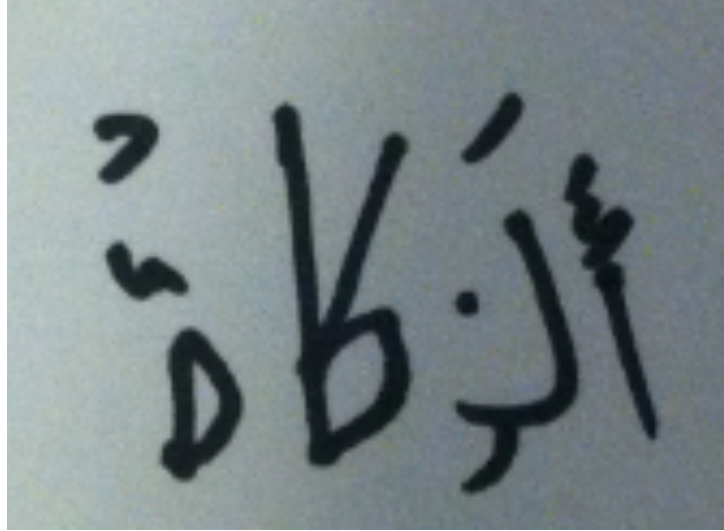
- The name of the pillar: _____/1
- A one paragraph explanation of what the pillar is (this must be in your own words. Do not copy from the textbook or online) _____/10
- At least 3 visuals depicting this pillar (these can be hand drawn or from the Internet – remember no drawings of God or Muhammad) _____/6 (2 pts. each visual)
- 3 key words that you feel best sum up this pillar (these would be “buzz words” for that pillar) _____/3
- The name of the pillar in Arabic (either cut out from the “Pillars in Arabic” sheet or traced) _____/1
- Answer the question corresponding to your pillar _____/5
- Creativity and appearance _____/5
- Total:** _____/31

Shahadah

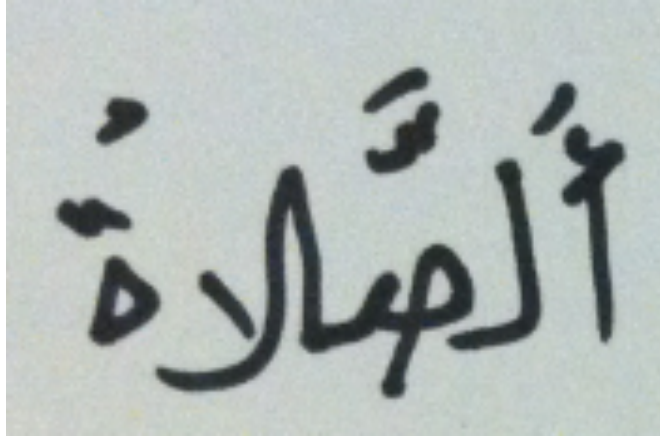


الشَّاهِدَةُ

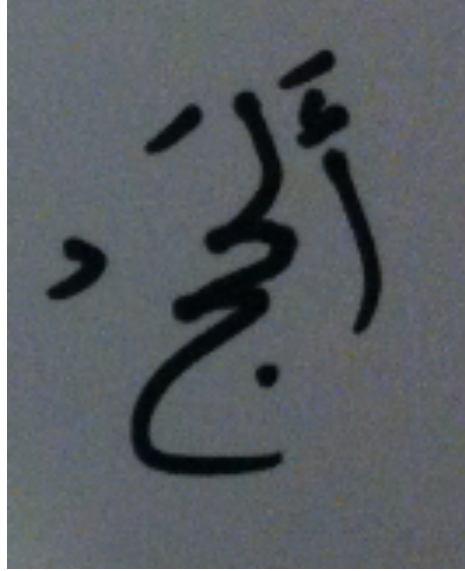
Zakat



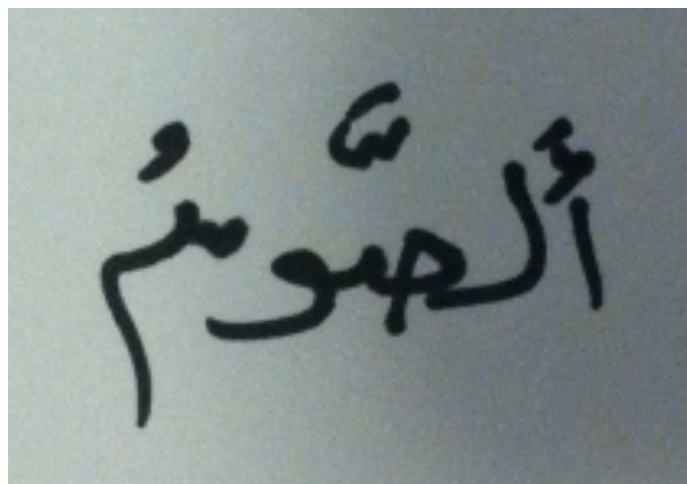
Salat



Hajj



Siyam



Primary Source Practice: Excerpts From the Qur'an



Under each excerpt from the Qur'an, write your interpretation (your own words) of what the quote means:

1. "And your Lord has commanded that you shall not serve (any) but Him, and goodness to your parents. If either or both of them reach old age with you, say not to them (so much as) "Ugh" nor chide them, and speak to them a generous word." (Qur'an, 17:23)

Your interpretation: _____

2. "And when you are greeted with a greeting, greet with a better (greeting) than it or return it; surely God takes account of all things." (Qur'an, 4:86)

Your interpretation: _____

3. "Give in alms from what [God] gave [you]" (Qur'an, 2:1)

Your interpretation: _____

4. "And they shall say had we but listened or used reason, we would not be among the inmates of the burning fire." (Qur'an, 67:10)

Your interpretation: _____

5. “[And give] unto the needy who, being wholly wrapped up in God’s cause, are unable to go about the God’s earth [in search of livelihood]. He who is unaware [of their condition] might think that they are wealthy, because they abstain [from begging]; [but] thou shall know them by their [unfailing] mark: they do not beg of men with importunity. And whatever good you may spend [on them], verily, God knows it all.” (2:273)

Your interpretation: _____

WHAT IS JIHAD?

Translation: *To strive*

Original meaning: *A physical struggle against enemies while aiming to please God or an internal struggle to overcome significant difficulties.*

Jihad is a religious duty for Muslims to “**strive in the way of God.**” Its intended meaning is controversial, though most Muslims see it as having several layers of meaning: an **internal struggle against sin** and disbelief, the **struggle to improve one’s society**, and **war in defense of their religion**. Many Muslims believe the inner struggle to be the “greater Jihad” and war in defense of their religion to be the “lesser jihad.” In its martial manifestation, jihad is generally meant to be defensive in nature - defending the faith or defending Muslim society - and is the only type of warfare permissible to Muslims. Jihad does not mean “holy war.” The Arabic word for war is “harb,” which does not appear in the Qur’an. Martial jihad is governed by a set of rules, such as prohibitions against attacking non-combatants. However, a number of Islamic governments, movements, and individuals across history have held up their own struggles as jihads or have used the term to rally support while waging offensive wars and disregarding restrictions on wartime codes of conduct, going beyond the limits that most Islamic scholars have set for legitimate jihad.

See: <http://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/resources/essays/jihad>
<http://www.adc.org/fileadmin/ADC/Educational Resources/Facts About Islam.pdf>

Now that you have learned about what jihad is to Muslims, write one paragraph about a personal struggle you have dealt with in your life, either internal or external. In addition, describe how you overcame it or how you plan to overcome it. If you don't feel comfortable sharing a personal struggle, write about an internal or external struggle a character in a book you have read has had to overcome, and explain how she or she overcame it.
