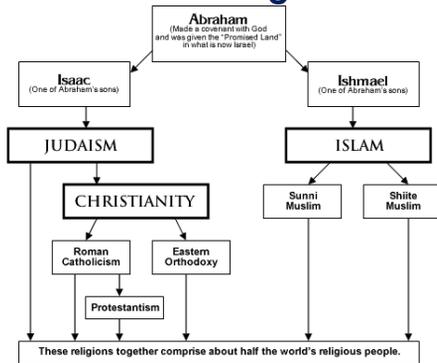


“Meeting God in friend & stranger”



How did Islam begin?

- Muhammad was born in 622AD in Mecca in Saudi Arabia.
- He is believed by Muslims to be the final prophet of Islam and is known as the ‘seal of the prophets’.
- There are two main events in Muhammad’s life that were crucial for the start of Islam:

The Night of Power	The Night Journey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The night that the Qur’an was first revealed to Muhammad by the Angel Jibril. • The angel appeared to Muhammad whilst he was praying in a cave during the month of Ramadan. • The angel told Muhammad to ‘recite’ and then the illiterate Muhammad could read the words. • These words eventually became written down into the Qur’an. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prophet Muhammad was taken on a miraculous journey by Angel Jibril. • He travelled from Mecca to Jerusalem. • In Jerusalem, Muhammad is believed to have led other prophets in prayer. • This is where the tradition of praying five times a day began. • This is why Jerusalem is a holy site for Muslims and it also where Muhammad is believed to have ascended into heaven.

What are the five pillars of Islam?

There are five pillars in Islam which are believed to hold up the faith. Without these five things, the whole faith would collapse. These five pillars are:

Shahadah	The declaration of faith – “there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger”
Salat	The duty to pray 5 times a day “Be among those who bow down to him” (Qur’an)
Zakat	Giving 2.5% of your money to charity “Give the alms” (Qur’an)
Sawm	Fasting during daylight hours for the month of Ramadan
Hajj	A religious pilgrimage to Mecca “And perform properly, the Hajj for Allah” (Qur’an)

What was life like in Pre-Islamic Arabia?

“O Arabs! Before accepting Islam you were on the brink of an abyss of fire. He saved you through Islam” Qur’an

This is known as the Jahiliyyah – a time of ignorance

The surrounding empires of Arabia were always at war



It was tribe vs tribe & survival of the fittest

Religious beliefs



Arabia was polytheistic

The month of Ramadan



The 9th month of was a time of fasting, prayer & meditation to honour the moon

What do Muslims believe?



Tawhid- The belief in One God



Kutub- The belief in the Holy Books



Malaikah - The belief in Angels



Akhirah- The belief in the Day of Judgement



Al Qadr- The belief in Predestination



Nubuwwar- The belief in the Prophets

What are the features of the Mosque?



MINARET: The first thing people will see. Used by the muezzin to call people to prayer.

DOMES: Another noticeable feature, often intricately decorated. A reminder that the whole universe belongs to God.

ABLUTIONS AREA: To help Muslims perform wudu (ritual washing before prayer)

MIHRAB: Small alcove that points in the direction of Mecca. Muslims face this direction when they pray.

PRAYER HALL: The space where Muslims come to gather to pray. Some Mosques have to prayer halls – one for each gender.