



### Key facts:

Muslims have **6 main beliefs**. These are:

1. Belief in Allah as the one and only God.
2. Belief in angels.
3. Belief in the holy books.
4. Belief in the prophets (special messengers) and that Muhammad was the final prophet.
5. Belief in the Day of Judgement (the day when Allah decides if a person goes to Heaven or Hell).
6. Belief in predestination (the belief that Allah has already planned out what will happen).

As well as holding their main beliefs, there are five things that Muslims are expected to do. These five things are called **the Five Pillars of Islam**. Muslims believe that doing these five things helps put their faith into action. They are Shahadah, Salah, Zakat, Sawm and Hajj.

The features of a mosque



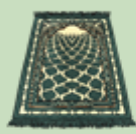
**Domed Roof:** Mosques often have a domed roof.



**Minaret (min-uh-ret):** This is a tall tower. A man called a muezzin will come here to call Muslims to pray (this is not allowed in Britain, so instead Muslims are often called to prayer through radio stations).



**Patterns:** In Islam, images of special people and animals are not allowed. Therefore, mosques are often decorated with patterns and words from the Qur'an.



**Prayer Mats:** There is little furniture inside a mosque, as Muslims pray on the floor using a prayer mat.



**Shoes:** Muslims take off their shoes before entering the mosque to pray. They do this to keep it clean for prayer.



**Fountain:** Muslims use the fountain to wash before they pray, to symbolise spiritual cleansing and purity ready to pray before Allah.



**Qibla (kib-lah) Wall:** The wall of the mosque which faces Mecca is called the Qibla wall. It has an empty arch to show the direction.

### Key vocabulary:

**Allah:** The Muslim name for 'God'

**Prophet:** A special messenger from God

**Mosque:** A place of worship for Muslims

**Muhammad:** The founder of Islam. A prophet.

**Muslim:** A person who follows Islam

**The Qur'an:** The holy book of Islam. Written in Arabic.

**Calligraphy:** A decorative style of writing

### The Five Pillars:

- **Shahadah** (declaration of faith): 'I bear witness that there is no god, but God; I bear witness that Muhammad is the prophet of God'. (Muslims say this to enter the Islamic faith).
- **Salah** (prayer): Muslims pray five times a day. Before prayer, they must wash themselves and then face Mecca whilst praying.
- **Zakat** (giving a fixed proportion to charity): Muslims give a percentage of their income to those who have less money (they don't just give to Muslims – they will give to anyone who is less fortunate than them, regardless of religion).
- **Sawm** (fasting during the month of Ramadan): Muslims fast for one month during a time called Ramadan. This is a time for Muslims to reflect on their behaviour and try to purify their thoughts
- **Hajj** (pilgrimage to Mecca): Muslims are to travel to Mecca once in their lifetime, if they can afford to.