

ISLAMIC FESTIVALS

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

ABOUT ISLAMIC FESTIVALS

THE ISLAMIC CALENDAR

- It is used to follow religious observances.
- The Islamic (Hijri) calendar uses lunar movements and started with the emigration (Hijrah) of Prophet Muhammad^(saw) from Mecca to Medina, which occurred on July 16th, 622.
- It is based on the lunar cycle and each month begins with the appearance of a new moon. There are 12 months in total, 4 of which are considered sacred (the first, seventh, eleventh and twelfth months).



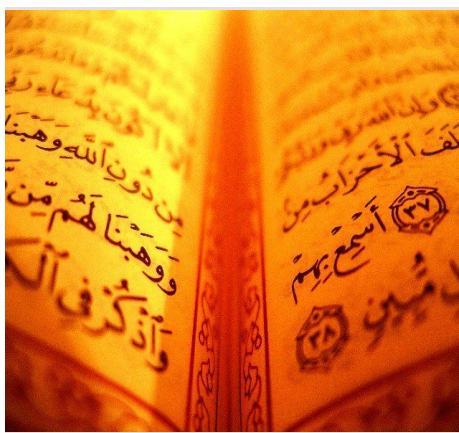
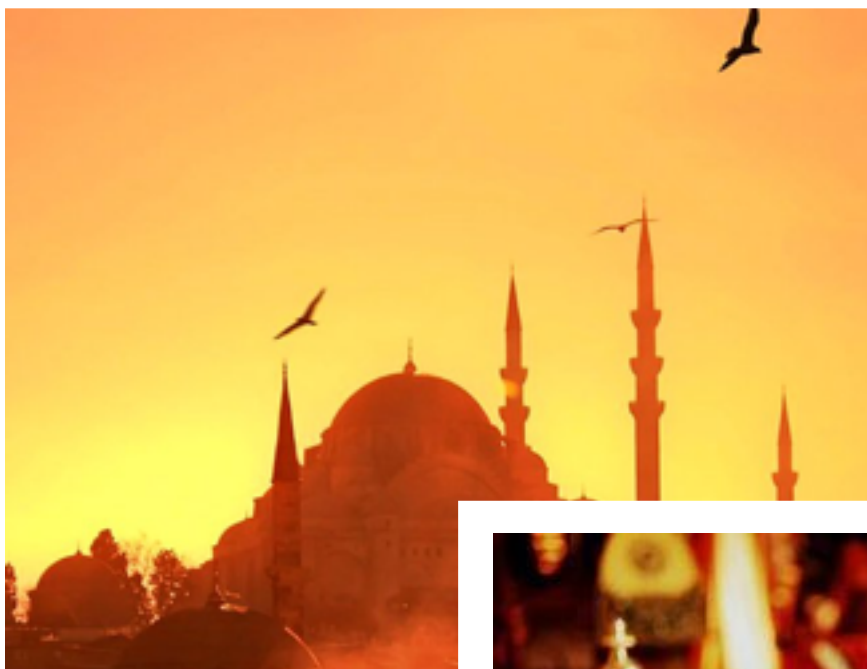
Rabi' al-awwal (Rabi' I) ربيع الأول 3	Safar صفر 2	Muharram محرم 1
Jumada al-thani (Jumada II) جمادى الثاني 6	Jumada al-awwal (Jumada I) جمادى الأول 5	Rabi' al-thani (Rabi' II) ربيع الثاني 4
Ramadan رمضان 9	Sha'ban شعبان 8	Rajab رجب 7
Dhu al-Hijjah ذو الحجة 12	Dhu al-Qi'dah ذو القعدة 11	Shawwal شوال 10

CAN YOU GUESS
WHAT YEAR WE'RE
IN ACCORDING TO
THE ISLAMIC
CALENDAR?

1439

RAMADHAN

- The Islamic faith has five pillars, one of which is fasting during the month of Ramadhan.
- The true purpose of Ramadhan, as of all forms of Islamic worship is to draw people closer to Allah. Though normal pursuits and occupations are carried on as usual, the emphasis on moral and spiritual values and concentration on them are intensified.
- The hearing, the sight, the tongue, the mind are all under stricter control. For instance, not only vain talk, but much talk is also eschewed, so that there should be greater concentration on remembrance of Allah and reflection upon His attributes.
- The Holy Prophet said: 'He who abstains from food and drink during the period of the fast but does not restrain himself from uttering a falsehood starves himself to no purpose.' During Ramadhan, the Prophet's own concern for and care of the poor, the needy, the sick and the orphan was intensified manifold, and that his charity knew no limit.



1. MORNING MEAL BEFORE DAWN
2. NO EATING OR DRINKING DURING THE DAY
3. BREAK YOUR FAST AT SUNSET
4. PRAY FIVETIMES + VOLUNTARY PRAYERS
5. AVOID ALL BAD HABITS + TRY TO GET CLOSER TO GOD

RULES OF RAMADHAN



EID UL FITR

- Eid-ul-Fitr is a festival that marks the end of the Holy month of Ramadhan. This joyous day is celebrated to give thanks for the blessings of Ramadhan. Muslims attend the congregational Eid prayer service which is held in the morning. They wear new clothing, cook delicious food and invite friends and neighbours to celebrate with them. Fasting during Ramadhan inspires sympathy for the hungry and needy, and encourages Muslims to donate generously to the poor.

HAJJ

- Hajj is the pilgrimage to Mecca. A Muslim must perform this pilgrimage at least once in his lifetime if economic and political conditions are favourable.
- The focal point of this pilgrimage is the Ka'ba, which was rebuilt by Prophet Abraham some 4,000 years ago.
- Today, the Ka'ba stands in the middle of a large courtyard of Masjid al Haram or the Sacred Mosque. The courtyard of Masjid al Haram contains, besides Ka'ba, the Maqam a abraham and the fountain of Zamzam.
- The Hajj is performed during the Muslim month of Dhul Hijjah which comes two months after the festival of Eid al Fitr. The Hajj includes various ceremonies:
- While the Hajj may only be performed during the prescribed dates of the month of Dhul Hijjah, a Lesser Pilgrimage called Umrah may be made individually at any time during the year.



EID UL ADHA

- Eid-ul-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice) is a festival comes about ten weeks after Eid-ul-Fitr, and marks the completion of Hajj (Holy pilgrimage to Mecca).
- It is the festival of Sacrifice that commemorate the obedience of Prophet Abraham and his son Ismail to the commandment of Allah.
- Prophet Abraham had a series of dreams in which he saw himself sacrificing his eldest son Ismail. He inferred that it was perhaps the will of God that he should sacrifice the life of his son.
- Abraham, being most obedient to God, was about to sacrifice the life of his son Ismail, when God commanded him to stop and gave him the good news that he had indeed fulfilled His command.
- God was so pleased with Abraham because of his obedience that He multiplied his progeny into billions. He was also given the great honor of being the forefather of the Holy Prophet of Islam.
- On the day of Eid those Muslims who can afford to sacrifice an animal are enjoined to do so after Eid Prayer

QUIZ!

ON ISLAMIC FESTIVALS

WHAT IS THE NAME OF
THE MONTH MUSLIMS
FAST IN?

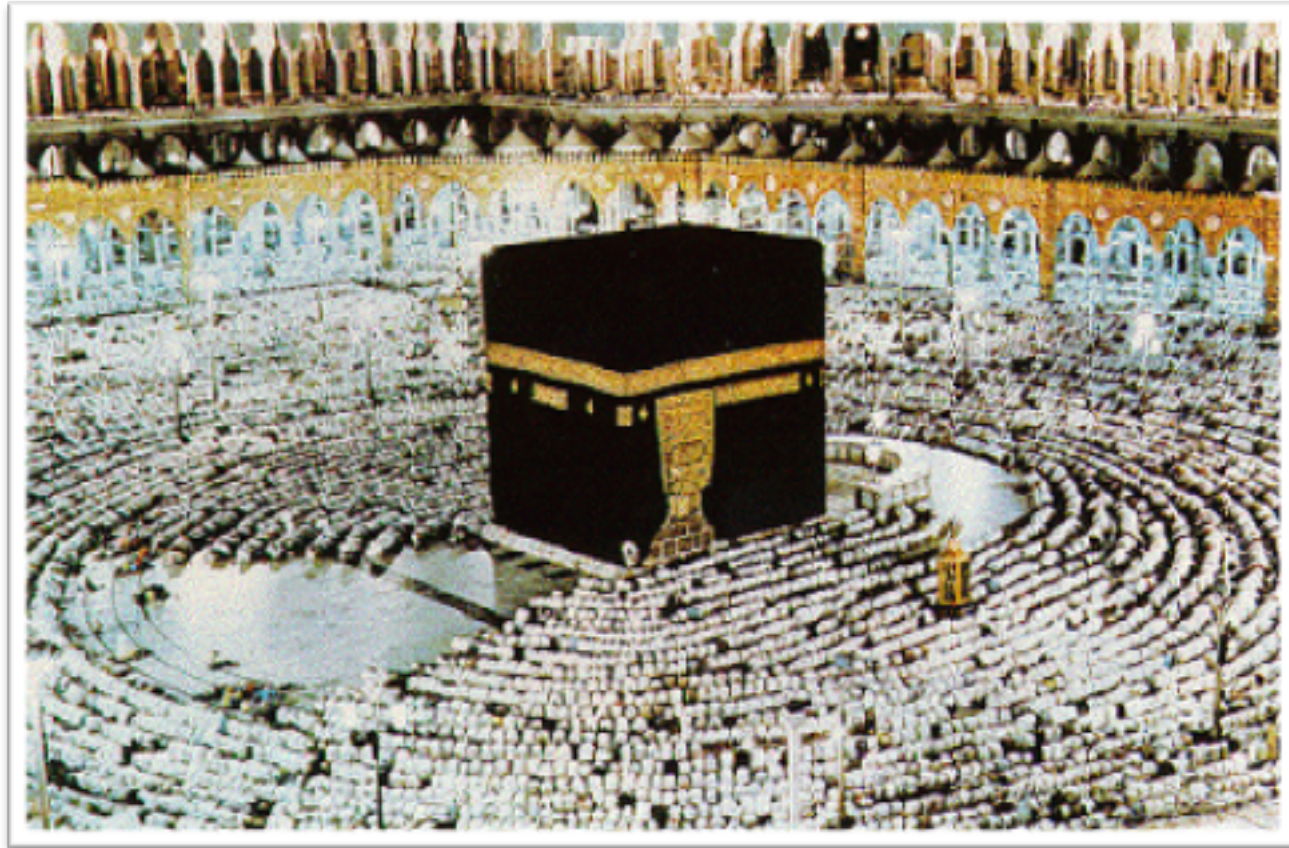
QUESTION ONE



RAMADHAN

WHEN WAS THE KA'ABA BUILT AND WHO BUILT IT?

QUESTION TWO



4,000
YEARS
AGO BY
PROPHET
ABRAHAM

WHAT IS THE NAME OF
THE EID OF SACRIFICE IN
ARABIC?

QUESTION THREE

EID UL ADHA

