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| **Strands** | World Religions | | | |
| **Stage of Development** | Lower Secondary (Year 7-9) | **Created** May 2021 | | **Review** 2025 |
| **Aim** | The theme that runs through the entire unit is how the experiences that Muhammad had in his life influenced his beliefs and those of Islam. For this reason, it is important to begin by examining the life of Muhammad. The Five Pillars of Islam are then used to explore Muhammad’s beliefs further and to identify how they reflect those beliefs. Through studying key Islamic beliefs, the phenomena of Islam will also be studied but this is only within the larger context of the life of Muhammad and the Islamic understanding of God. | | | |
| **Content Descriptions** | **Knowledge and Understanding**   * A brief history of Islam * An overview of the impact of Muhammad and his life on Islamic beliefs * The Five Pillar of Islam | | **Religious Studies Skills**   * Concept Cracking | |
| **Resources** | The MET Museum  <https://www.metmuseum.org/learn/educators/curriculum-resources/art-of-the-islamic-world> | | A unit of work designed to help students learn about the art and culture of the Islamic world. | | |
|  | Film: 30 Days as a Muslim | | ’30 Days as a Muslim’, a film by Morgan Spurlock, (Supersize Me) is an excellent introduction to what it is to be a Muslim. Morgan Spurlock lives with an American Muslim family for 30 days and has to do all the things they do. | | |
|  | World Faiths DVD ‘The Life of Muhammad’ | | This DVD provides a short but clear overview of Muhammad’s life. | | |

| **Lesson** | | **Key Questions** | **Lesson Activity Ideas** | | **Resources** |
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| **1** | Introduction | What is Islam?  Where did Islam originate? | 5min  5min  20min  15min | Brainstorm: in pairs knowledge of Islam. Feedback and collect information into a brainstorm on the board for the class to copy.  PowerPoint: Religions of the World Map. Discuss with a focus particularly on the distribution of people who identify as Muslims.  Ask which is the most populous Muslim country (Indonesia – 180m Muslims)  PowerPoint: Understanding Islam. This PowerPoint looks at Islamic Art and considers what we can learn through 7 pieces of Islamic Art. There are notes for each slide from The Met Study Guide.  Watch: Harvard X Talk on Understanding Islam (6 min). This video is intended as an overview only. Discuss. | PowerPoint: Religions of the World Map  PowerPoint: Understanding Islam |
| **2** | Muhammad | Who was Muhammad?  When did he live and die? | 10min  25min  10min | Game: play a game of Celebratory Heads and discuss how we find out information about people. What questions would we need to ask about Muhammad to discover who he was? As a class come up with 5 questions about Muhammad students would like answers to.  Research: Break students into small groups and allocate one of the questions above to each group. Ask them to research their question and report back to the class.  Reflection: Muhammad/I noticed. Asks students to reflect on what they have learnt about Muhammad during this lesson.  NB: Animated World Faiths DVD ‘The Life of Muhammad’ or an equivalent resource which documents the life of Muhammad would be a helpful addition to this lesson. | Some names of famous celebrities  Internet  Worksheet: I noticed |
| 3 | The Five Pillars of Islam | What are the Five Pillars of Islam?  What do the Five Pillars of Islam mean to Muslims? | 5min  25min  15min | PowerPoint: Worldviews. Look at the worldviews sheet and ask students to select one worldview and record five beliefs or practices that are significant to that worldview. The student’s answers can come from their own knowledge as well as the diagram. You may wish to print out some A4 copies of Slide 3. Explain that in this unit we are studying the beliefs that are considered significant in Islam.  Worksheet: The Five Pillars of Islam. This worksheet requires students to research each of the Five Pillars and record a brief description in the table provided.  Worksheet: Prayer. This worksheet explores prayer in more detail by considering a 17th century painting believed to originate from India. | PowerPoint: Worldviews  Worksheet: The Five Pillars of Islam  Worksheet: Prayer |
| **4** | Shahadah and Islamic Art | Why is the Shahadah of central importance to Muslims?  Why are geometric patterns used to decorate mosques rather than images?  What do geometric patterns represent? | 5min  5min  15min  20min | Brainstorm: Links between art and religious thought.  Discuss: “The prevalence of geometric ornament in Islamic art thus shows the confluence of art, mathematics, philosophy, and religious thought.” How might geometric ornament be linked to religious thought in Islam? (The oneness and perfection of Allah is reflected in the use of geometric patterns in Islamic art and architecture.)  PowerPoint: The Shahadah and Geometric Patterns  Reflection: The Shahadah | PowerPoint: Shahadah  Worksheet: The Shahadah |
| **5** | Zakah and Ramadan | What is Ramadan?  Why do Muslims celebrate Ramadan?  What is Zakah? | 5min  25min  10min  5min | Share: Ask students to share the longest period of time they have gone without food.  Activity: Break the students into small groups or allocate each individual student a question to research from the question page. Give students some time to research and ask each group to come back and share their answer with the class.  Watch: A video on a Muslim charity e.g. Ummah Welfare Trust (UK based organisation) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=138&v=ledmH3bLU0I&feature=emb_title>  Discuss: The meaning of Zakah. It means to cleanse or purify. As a person gives up a share (2.5%) of his/her wealth they become cleansed from selfishness and greed. You could also discuss the possible advantages of Zakah for society. |  |
| **6** | Hajj | What is the Hajj?  What does the Hajj mean to Muslims? | 45min | Set up the classroom with 6 stations. At each station have about 5 copies of the corresponding station sheet (NB: Station 7 is an exercise using the internet so you will need IT access). Introduce the Hajj as a compulsory event at least once in a Muslim’s lifetime. It symbolises the unity of mankind in the presence of Allah. Hand out Hajj passport worksheets. Explain task to students. By the end of the lesson they should have a completed passport sheet. | Hajj passport, Hajj stations, Hajj station 1 conversations, Hajj station 2 pictures, Hajj station 3 diary, Hajj station 4 Facebook, Hajj station 5 birds, Hajj station 6 newspaper. |