



Tell Me

All About Ramadan

An Introduction for Every Child Aged 7+



What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is a month in the Islamic calendar in which Muslims fast. That means they don't eat or drink anything from dawn to dusk.

Ramadan is a time of self-reflection, sharing and making your relationship with God stronger.

Ramadan lasts for a full lunar (moon) cycle. Read the passage to learn about the differences between lunar and solar cycles. Use what you've learnt to answer the questions.



The Islamic calendar is based on a lunar year, which is the time it takes for 12 full moon phases.



One of the great things about the Islamic lunar calendar is that you can tell the date just by looking at the moon. For example, a full moon means it's the 15th day of the month.

You can't do that with a solar calendar. That's the calendar that most countries use in the world today and is based on the time it takes for the earth to go around the sun. In a solar calendar, the seasons stay the same in every month throughout the year.



A lunar month is either 29 or 30 days which means a lunar year is shorter than a solar year by about 10 days. That's why Ramadan moves between different seasons.



1 What's one advantage of the lunar calendar?

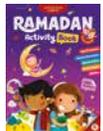
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2 What's one advantage of the solar calendar?

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3 As the years go by, why does Ramadan occur in different seasons?

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Why is Ramadan So Special?

Reflection

Age 7+

Muslim believe that the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad during Ramadan. That's what makes Ramadan so special. The month of Ramadan is all about honouring the Quran, which Muslims believe is the direct word of God.

The main message of the Quran is to believe in one God and to worship God alone. Alongside this message, the Quran also encourages showing special kindness to parents. In Islam, kindness to parents is considered a type of worship.

Reflect on the relationship you have with your parents by answering the questions on this page.

Write down some of the ways in which your parents look after you everyday.



What are some the things you can do to make your parents happy?

What do you think your parents would like to see from you as you grow older?

What's the biggest sacrifice your parents have made for you?

Do you think you can ever truly repay the service your parents have given to you?



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What Happens in Ramadan?

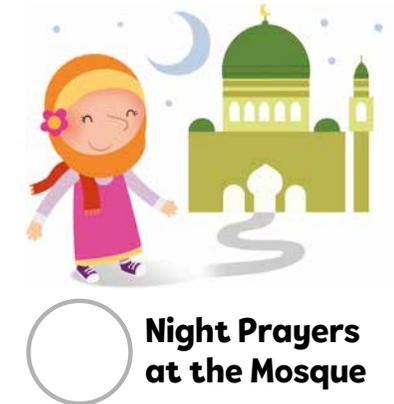
Problem-Solving Skills

Age 7+

Along with fasting, Islam encourages lots of 'good-deeds' during Ramadan such as extra prayers, reciting and studying the Quran, giving in charity and feeding the needy.

Ramadan is also a time for Muslims to reflect on how they can better themselves, draw closer to God and serve others.

Below is a list of all the things that Aisha does during a typical day in Ramadan. Put the items in the order you think she does them by numbering the circles.



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Fasting

Deduction Skills

Age 7+

Fasting is common in different world religions such as Islam (during Ramadan), Judaism (on Yom Kippur) and Christianity (during Lent).

Fasting for the month of Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. The pillars are actions that every Muslim must do. Fasting helps Muslims to disconnect from the distractions in life and focus more on their spiritual side and relationship with God.

From the list of actions below, circle the five pillars of Islam.



Reciting the Quran



Giving in Zakat (charity)



Kindness to Parents



5 daily Prayers



Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca)



Testimony of Faith (Shahadah)



Fasting in Ramadan



Thinking Good of Others



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Fasting Worldwide

Problem-Solving Skills

Age 7+

Muslims all around the world fast from dawn to dusk. The time of sunrise and sunset is different from one place to another. This means that for some Muslims, fasting can be as short as 9 hours, while for others it can double that length of time. Answer the questions below using the information found on the map.



Questions

- 1 Which country has the longest fast?
- 2 How long is the fast in Ghana?
- 3 By how many hours does the fast between the Canadians and the Brazilians differ?
- 4 Which country has the shortest fast?
- 5 What time does the sun set in Indonesia?

The times shown on this map do not reflect the true times of sunrise and sunset in the countries shown.



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Eid Celebrations

Problem-Solving Skills

Age 7+

At the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate a day called 'Eid' by ending their fast and praying a special prayer. They also visit friends and family and exchange gifts.

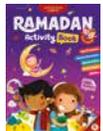
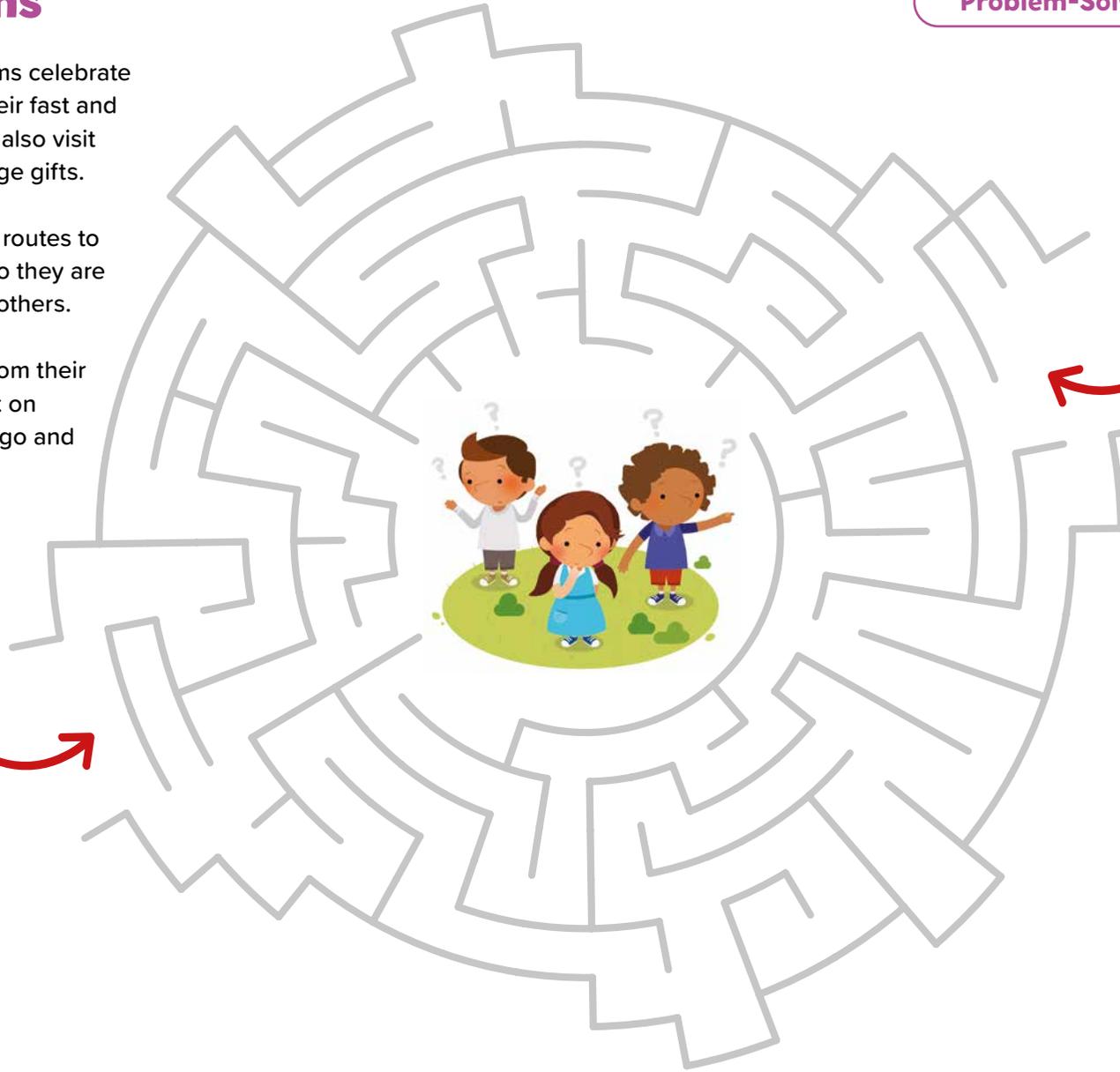
On Eid, Muslims take different routes to and from the place of prayer so they are more likely to meet and greet others.

Guide Aisha and her friends from their home to the mosque and back on Eid day, by using one route to go and another to return home.



Return home a different way

Go one way



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Answers

What is Ramadan?

1. You can tell the day of the month by looking at the moon.
2. The seasons remain in the same months throughout the year.
3. The lunar calendar is about 10 days shorter than the solar calendar so season in which Ramadan occurs changes every year.

What Happens in Ramadan?

1. A meal before dawn.
2. Morning prayers.
3. Homework (flexible).
4. Journal reflections (flexible).
5. Giving in charity (flexible).
6. Reciting the Quran (flexible).
7. Afternoon prayers.
8. Breaking fast.
9. Night prayers at Mosque.

Fasting

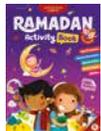
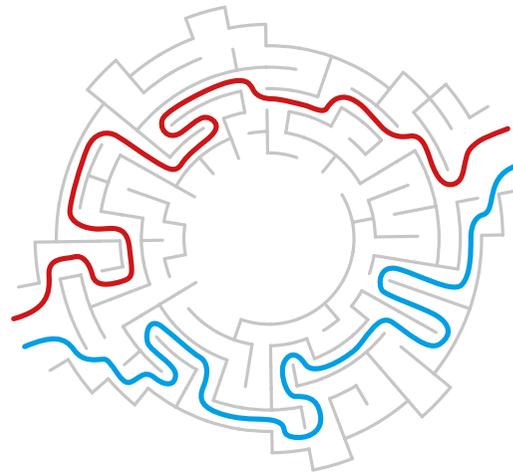
The 5 pillars of Islam are:

1. Testimony of Faith (Shahadah)
2. Five daily prayers
3. Fasting in Ramadan
4. Giving in Zakat (charity)
5. Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca)

Fasting Worldwide

1. Australia
2. 12 hours 30min
3. 4 hours 45min
4. Canada
5. 8:30pm

Eid Celebrations



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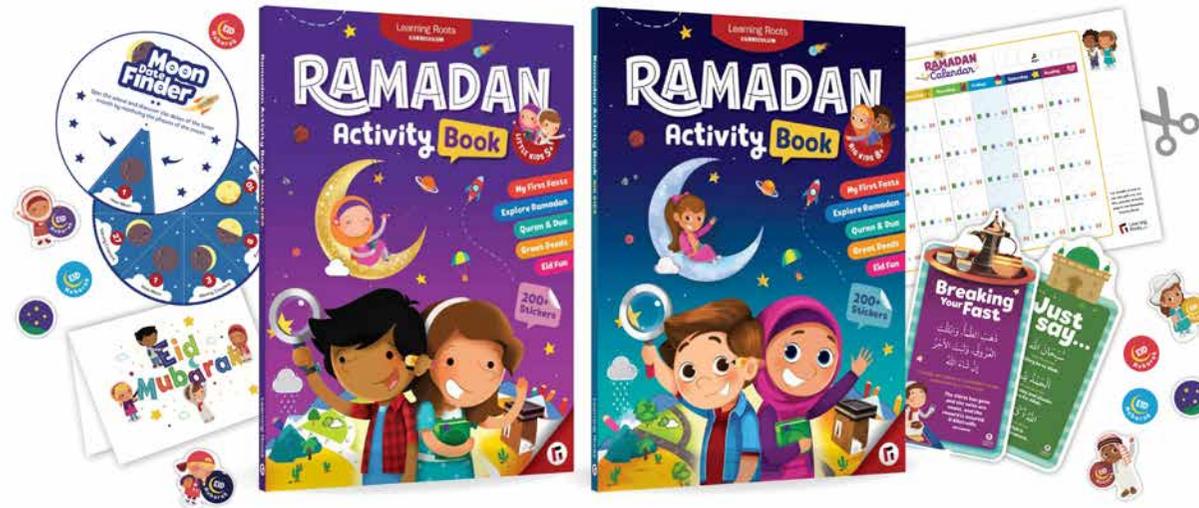
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