

# Ramadan

Ramadan is an important time for Muslims. Muslims are followers of the religion called Islam. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and it begins on a different date in the UK each year. It lasts for 29 or 30 days and it is a very holy month for Muslims.

## What Is Sawm?

Ramadan is the time of the year when many Muslims choose to fast. Fasting means not eating or drinking anything at all. Muslims call fasting 'sawm' and they go without any kind of food or drink from sunrise to sunset each day during Ramadan.

Many Muslims wake up before the sun has risen so that they can eat a meal called Suhur. Then, they do not eat or drink at all throughout the day. Once the sun has set, an evening meal called Iftar is eaten.

Fasting is believed to make a Muslim's faith stronger because they can turn to God for support when they are finding fasting difficult. It also gives Muslims a greater understanding of what life is like for people around the world who are hungry and thirsty every day.

## What Is Zakat?

Many Muslims do extra acts of charity during Ramadan. These acts of charity are called zakat. Some people choose to help people who live nearby while others donate money to charities around the world.

## What Is Eid al-Fitr?

There is a special holiday called Eid al-Fitr at the end of the month of Ramadan. On Eid al-Fitr, many Muslims go with their family and friends to the mosque. A mosque is a place of worship. Eid al-Fitr is a happy celebration. People often give and receive gifts and enjoy a large meal together to mark the end of a month of fasting.



## What Is the Qur'an?

The Qur'an is the holy book of Islam. Ramadan is a holy time for Muslims and many Muslims choose to read the whole of the Qur'an during the month as part of their extra evening prayers. It can be split into 30 sections so that one section can be read on each of the 29 or 30 days of Ramadan.



# Questions

1. Which month of the Islamic calendar is Ramadan? Tick one.

- the first
- the fifth
- the ninth
- the twelfth

2. Which meal do many Muslims eat before sunrise? Tick one.

- Ramadan
- Suhur
- Iftar
- Eid al-Fitr

3. What is Eid al-Fitr? Tick one.

- a month of the Islamic calendar
- a place that Muslims can visit
- a special holiday at the end of Ramadan
- a meal eaten during Ramadan

4. Draw **four** lines and match each word to its meaning.

Muslim

sawm

Qur'an

zakat

fasting

the holy book of Islam

a follower of Islam

acts of charity

5. How long does Ramadan last for?

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6. Fill in the missing words.

Fasting is believed to make a Muslim's faith \_\_\_\_\_ because they can turn to God for \_\_\_\_\_ when they are finding fasting difficult.

7. Summarise what you have learnt about Ramadan using 30 words or fewer.

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# Answers

1. Which month of the Islamic calendar is Ramadan? Tick one.

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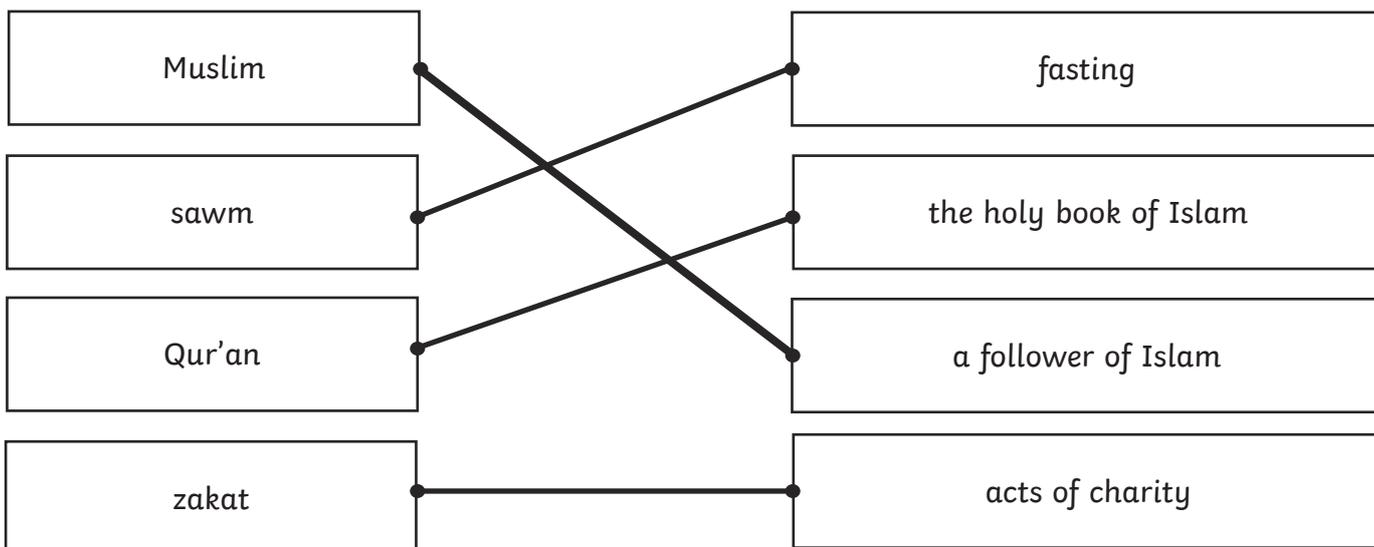
2. Which meal do many Muslims eat before sunrise? Tick one.

- Ramadan
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3. What is Eid al-Fitr? Tick one.

- a month of the Islamic calendar
- a place that Muslims can visit
- a special holiday at the end of Ramadan**
- a meal eaten during Ramadan

4. Draw **four** lines and match each word to its meaning.



5. How long does Ramadan last for?

**Ramadan lasts for 29 or 30 days.**

6. Fill in the missing words.

Fasting is believed to make a Muslim's faith **stronger** because they can turn to God for **support** when they are finding fasting difficult.

7. Summarise what you have learnt about Ramadan using 30 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and it lasts for 29 or 30 days. It is a time for Muslims to fast and do charitable things.**

# Ramadan

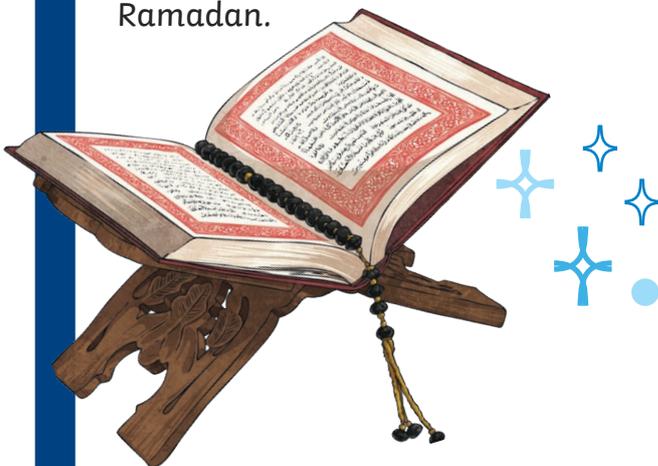
Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It lasts for 29 or 30 days and it is a very holy month for **Muslims**.

## When Is Ramadan?

Ramadan begins on a different date in the UK each year. This is because of the calendar that is used. Many countries track dates using the Gregorian calendar, which is worked out using the movement of Earth around the Sun. However, the Islamic calendar is worked out using the phases of the Moon. This means that Ramadan begins on a slightly different Gregorian date each year.

## Reading the Qur'an

Ramadan is a holy time for Muslims. As such, many Muslims choose to read the whole of the **Qur'an** during the month. Many Muslims do this as part of their extra evening prayers. The Qur'an is split into 30 sections which are read over the 29 or 30 days of Ramadan.



## Fasting

Ramadan is the time of the year when many Muslims choose to fast. This is called *sawm*. *Sawm* means that Muslims must go without any kind of food or drink from sunrise to sunset each day. They do this during Ramadan no matter where in the world they live or what the weather is like in their country.

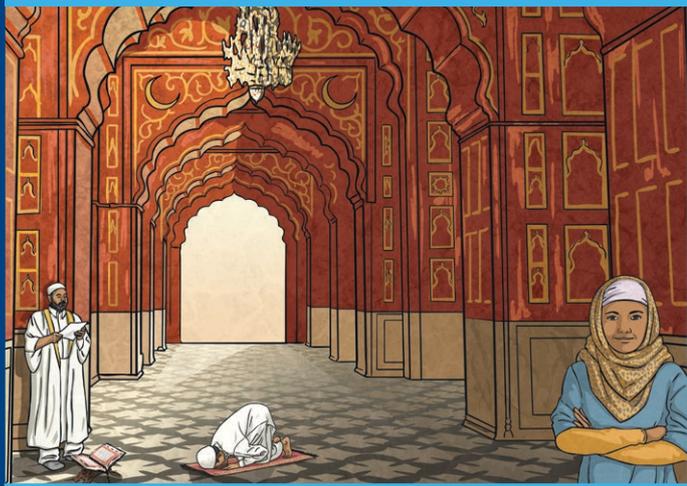
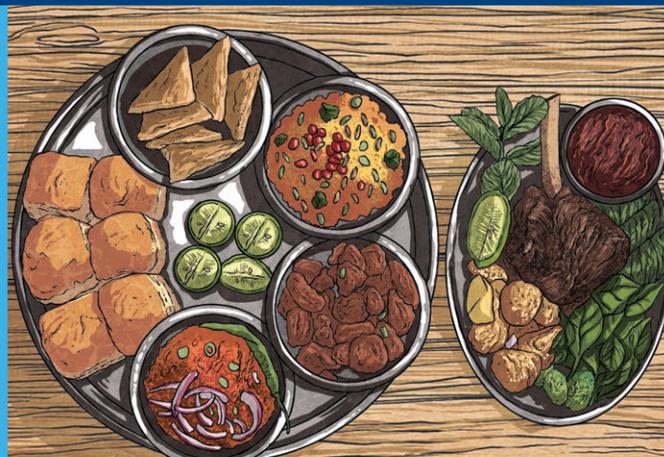
Many Muslims wake up before the sun has risen to eat a meal called *Suhur*. Then, they do not eat or drink at all throughout the day until *Iftar*, which is an evening meal that is eaten after the sun has set. In summer, this can often mean that some Muslims experience hot temperatures and 16 hours of daylight without being able to drink any water at all.

Fasting is believed to strengthen a Muslim's faith. This is because they turn to God for support throughout their daily struggles. It also gives Muslims a greater understanding of what life is like for those people around the world who are hungry and thirsty every day.



## Charity

Many Muslims do extra acts of charity during Ramadan. These acts of charity are called zakat. Some people choose to help their local community while others donate money from their monthly income to charities around the world.



## Eid al-Fitr

The end of the month of Ramadan is marked by a special holiday called Eid al-Fitr. On Eid al-Fitr, many Muslims gather at their local mosque with family and friends. It is a joyous celebration. People often give and receive gifts and enjoy a large feast together to mark the end of a month of fasting.

## Glossary

**Muslims:** Followers of the religion of Islam.

**Qur'an:** The holy book of the religion of Islam.

# Questions

1. **It lasts for 29 or 30 days and it is a very holy month for Muslims.**

Which of these words means the same as 'holy'? Tick one.

- rare
- sacred
- forgotten
- long

2. What is sawm? Tick one.

- fasting
- acts of charity
- the Islamic holy book
- the ninth month of the Islamic calendar

3. Number the facts from 1-4 to show the order that they appear in in the text.

- Many Muslims do extra acts of charity during Ramadan.
- Eid al-Fitr is a joyous celebration.
- Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar.
- The Islamic calendar is worked out using the phases of the Moon.

4. Which of these statements are true about Eid al-Fitr? Tick **two**.

- It is the first day of Ramadan.
- It marks the end of Ramadan.
- People give and receive gifts on Eid al-Fitr.
- People eat Eid al-Fitr after sunset.

5. Fill in the missing words.

The Qur'an is split into 30 \_\_\_\_\_ which are read over the 29 or 30 days of \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Find and copy one word from the text which means 'to go without food and drink'.

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7. Explain why Ramadan begins on a different date in the UK each year.

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8. Why do you think that many Muslims choose to read the whole of the Qur'an during Ramadan?

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# Answers

1. **It lasts for 29 or 30 days and it is a very holy month for Muslims.**

Which of these words means the same as 'holy'? Tick one.

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2. What is sawm? Tick one.

- fasting**
- acts of charity
- the Islamic holy book
- the ninth month of the Islamic calendar

3. Number the facts from 1-4 to show the order that they appear in in the text.

- 3** Many Muslims do extra acts of charity during Ramadan.
- 4** Eid al-Fitr is a joyous celebration.
- 1** Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar.
- 2** The Islamic calendar is worked out using the phases of the Moon.

4. Which of these statements are true about Eid al-Fitr? Tick **two**.

- It is the first day of Ramadan.
- It marks the end of Ramadan.**
- People give and receive gifts on Eid al-Fitr.**
- People eat Eid al-Fitr after sunset.

5. Fill in the missing words.

The Qur'an is split into 30 **sections** which are read over the 29 or 30 days of **Ramadan**.

6. Find and copy one word from the text which means 'to go without food and drink'.

**Accept any of the following: fast; fasting; sawm.**

7. Explain why Ramadan begins on a different date in the UK each year.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Ramadan begins on a different date in the UK each year because it is worked out using the Islamic calendar not the Gregorian calendar.**

8. Why do you think that many Muslims choose to read the whole of the Qur'an during Ramadan?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that many Muslims choose to read the whole of the Qur'an during Ramadan because Ramadan is a holy month so they want to feel closer to God.**

# Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It lasts for 29 or 30 days and it spans from one sighting of the crescent moon to the next. Ramadan is a very holy month for **Muslims**.

## Why Does Ramadan Begin on a Different Date Each Year?

To understand why Ramadan begins on a different date in the UK each year, we must first look at the calendar that is used. Many countries track dates using the Gregorian calendar, such as the UK. The Gregorian calendar is a **solar calendar** and each year has 365 or 366 days. Unlike the Gregorian calendar, the Islamic calendar is a **lunar calendar**. This means that each year has 354 or 355 days. Therefore, Ramadan begins on a slightly different Gregorian date each year.

## Fasting

Ramadan is the time of the year when many Muslims choose to fast. This is called sawm. Sawm means that they must go without any kind of food or drink from sunrise to sunset each day. Muslims do this during Ramadan no matter where in the world they live or what the weather is like in their country.

Many Muslims wake up before the sun has risen to eat a meal called Suhur. Then, they do not eat or drink at all throughout the day until Iftar, which is an evening meal that is eaten after the sun has set. In summer, this can often mean that some Muslims experience scorching temperatures and 16 hours of daylight without being able to drink even a single sip of water.

Fasting is believed to strengthen a Muslim's faith. This is because they turn to God for support throughout their daily struggles. It also gives Muslims a greater understanding of what life is like for those people around the world who have no choice but to be hungry and thirsty every day.



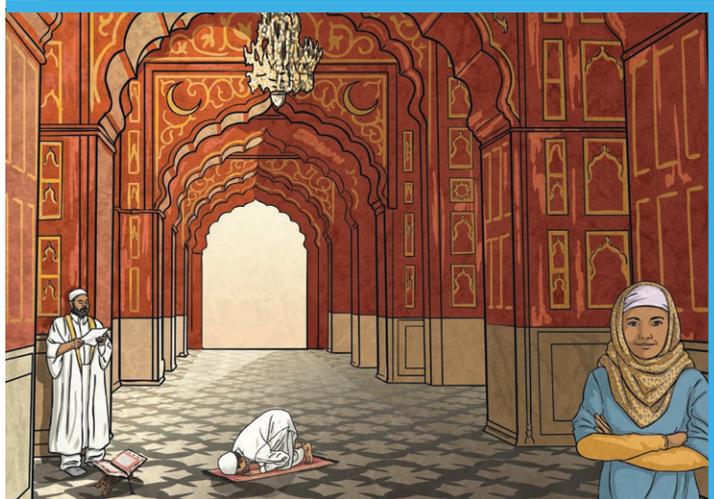
## Reading the Qur'an

As Ramadan is such a holy time for Muslims, many choose to read the whole of the **Qur'an** during the month. Many Muslims do this as part of their extra evening prayers.



## Charity

Many Muslims do extra acts of charity during Ramadan. This is called zakat. Some people choose to help their local community as part of their zakat while others donate money from their monthly income to charities around the world.



## Eid al-Fitr

The end of the month of Ramadan is marked by a special holiday called Eid al-Fitr. On Eid al-Fitr, many Muslims gather at their local mosque with family and friends. It is a joyous celebration. People often give and receive gifts and enjoy a large feast together to mark the end of a month of fasting.

## Glossary

**lunar calendar:** A dating system that uses the monthly cycle of the Moon's phases to track the progression of time.

**Muslims:** Followers of the religion of Islam.

**Qur'an:** The holy book of the religion of Islam.

**solar calendar:** A dating system that uses the movement of the Earth and its position in the Solar System as it orbits the Sun to track the progression of time.

# Questions

1. Which calendar is based on the Moon's phases? Tick one.

- the solar calendar
- the Gregorian calendar
- the Ramadan calendar
- the Islamic calendar

2. How do Suhur and Iftar differ? Tick one.

- They are celebrated at different times of the year.
- They are eaten at different times of the day.
- They are told to different people.
- They are based on different calendars.

3. Fill in the missing words.

The end of the month of \_\_\_\_\_ is marked by a special holiday called \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Look at the section called **Charity**.

Find and copy one word that means 'additional'.

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5. When do many Muslims choose to read the Qur'an during Ramadan?

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6. Which fact about Ramadan did you find most surprising? Explain your answer.

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7. Discuss why it may be easier for Muslims to fast when Ramadan falls during winter months.

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8. Have you ever celebrated after doing something challenging? How might this apply to Muslims celebrating Eid al-Fitr?

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# Answers

1. Which calendar is based on the Moon's phases? Tick one.

- the solar calendar
- the Gregorian calendar
- the Ramadan calendar
- the Islamic calendar**

2. How do Suhur and Iftar differ? Tick one.

- They are celebrated at different times of the year.
- They are eaten at different times of the day.**
- They are told to different people.
- They are based on different calendars.

3. Fill in the missing words.

The end of the month of **Ramadan** is marked by a special holiday called **Eid al-Fitr**.

4. Look at the section called **Charity**.

Find and copy one word that means 'additional'.  
**extra**

5. When do many Muslims choose to read the Qur'an during Ramadan?

**Many Muslims read the whole of the Qur'an as part of their extra evening prayers during Ramadan.**

6. Which fact about Ramadan did you find most surprising? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I was surprised to find out that fasting Muslims cannot drink any water during the day because this must be really hard to do.**

7. Discuss why it may be easier for Muslims to fast when Ramadan falls during winter months.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: It may be easier for Muslims to fast when Ramadan falls during winter because the daylight hours are shorter and the weather is cooler.**

8. Have you ever celebrated after doing something challenging? How might this apply to Muslims celebrating Eid al-Fitr?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I celebrated by having a special meal after I had been dedicated to studying for my SATs. Muslims have a special meal on Eid al-Fitr to celebrate being dedicated to fasting during Ramadan.**