

What do you know about Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr? Read this article to find out what people do at this special time!

## Instructions

Do the preparation exercise first. Then read the article and do the other exercises.

## Preparation

Match the definitions (a-h) with the vocabulary (1-8).

### Vocabulary

1. ~~g~~ Islamic
2. .... a prayer
3. .... holy
4. .... fortunate
5. .... patient
6. .... a charity
7. .... strength
8. .... a mosque

### Definition

- a. having luck and good things
- b. an organisation that gives food, money or help to people in need
- c. a building where Muslims go to pray and do other religious activities
- d. the act of speaking to God, especially to give thanks or ask for help
- e. the ability to do things that need a lot of physical or mental effort
- f. connected with God or a particular religion
- g. ~~connected with the Muslim religion, or with people or countries who follow it~~
- h. being able to wait for a long time without feeling angry

## Ramadan

Ramadan is a very special time for Muslims all over the world. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims spend time practising their religion and fasting.

### When is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the name of the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. The Islamic calendar is based on the moon and so is a bit shorter than the Western calendar. This is why Ramadan starts on a different date each year.

### What is fasting?

When you fast, you don't eat or drink anything for a certain period of time. During Ramadan, most Muslims don't eat or drink (not even water) between dawn (the time when there is the first light in the sky in the morning) and sunset (when the sun goes down in the evening). Fasting is important because it helps people feel closer to God. People usually start the day with a big meal before sunrise. This meal is called *Suhoor*. The evening meal, called *Iftar*, is very important and sometimes lasts for a long time. Special foods are shared with family and friends. Desserts are particularly popular.

### What other things do people do during Ramadan?

During Ramadan, Muslims do things that bring them closer to God. It's a time for extra prayers and reading the holy book, the Qur'an. They think about people who are less fortunate than themselves and try to help them. They try not to do bad actions, like saying bad things about people or using bad language. Ramadan is a time to try to be more patient and kinder to the people around you. Many Muslims also give money to charities during the month, and a lot of Islamic charities give food to poor people.

### What happens at the end of Ramadan?

There is a special festival at the end of Ramadan, called Eid al-Fitr. It's a time for people to thank God for the strength and help they received during Ramadan. On Eid al-Fitr, Muslims wake up early and dress in their best clothes. Many of them go to the mosque to pray. After prayers, they wish each other a happy Eid (*Eid Mubarak* in Arabic) and spend the rest of the day with their families. They eat special food and give each other presents.

## Tasks

### Task 1

Choose the five things that Muslims do during the month of Ramadan.

- \_\_\_\_\_ They eat a big meal in the middle of the day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ ✓ They have a special meal in the evening, after sunset.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They drink a lot of water.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They pray and read the Qur'an.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They play music, sing and dance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They think about other people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They spend time with their families.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They give money to charity.

### Task 2

Put the words and phrases in the correct order.

1. Ramadan Islamic calendar. ninth is the month in the

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2. people feel Fasting God. helps to closer

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3. time to people. kind Ramadan to be is a

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4. Eid al-Fitr. at the The festival of Ramadan is called end

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5. wear At Eid al-Fitr, clothes. people best their

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6. presents to They eat and give their families. special food

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**Write and draw**

Do you observe Ramadan? Do you have another special time of year? Write about it and draw a picture.

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## Answers

### Preparation task

1. g
2. d
3. f
4. a
5. h
6. b
7. e
8. c

### Task 1

- \_\_\_\_\_ They eat a big meal in the middle of the day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They have a special meal in the evening, after sunset.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They drink a lot of water.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They pray and read the Qur'an.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They play music, sing and dance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They think about other people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They spend time with their families.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They give money to charity.

### Task 2

1. Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar.
2. Fasting helps people feel closer to God.
3. Ramadan is a time to be kind to people.
4. The festival at the end of Ramadan is called Eid al-Fitr.
5. At Eid al-Fitr, people wear their best clothes.
6. They eat special food and give presents to their families.