Islam

- Islam is a monotheistic religion and is the world’s second biggest religion with over 1.5 billion followers worldwide.
- Monotheistic means a belief in one god (referred to as Allah, which means “God” in Arabic).
- The word Islam means ‘submission to the will of God’.

The Kaaba, in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, is the center of Islam. Muslims from all over the world gather there to pray in unity.
Key Beliefs

- Followers believe that Allah sent a number of prophets to teach mankind how to live according to his law. Abraham, Moses, and Jesus are all respected as prophets.

- Muslims (followers of Islam) believe that Islam was revealed to Muhammad, the final prophet and founder of Islam, around the year 622.
Key Beliefs (cont.)

- Muslims believe that Allah is the one true God and that Mohammad is his prophet.
- Muslims believe that Islam has always existed, but for practical purposes, date their religion from the time of Muhammad.
- Muslims believe in a Day of Judgment, where people will be judged to either go to heaven or hell.

A depiction of Muhammad receiving his first revelation from the angel Gabriel.
There are approximately 1.57 billion Muslims worldwide, with most living in Southwest Asia (Middle East), Indonesia, and Sub-Saharan Africa.
The Islamic holy book is the Koran (also spelled Qur’an), which was revealed to Muhammad over a period of 23 years.

The Koran is regarded as the true word of Allah (God), and to Muslims, is intended to correct errors in previous holy texts, such as the Old and New Testaments.
Worship Services

- Muslims worship at a mosque, many of which have elaborate domes, minarets, and prayer halls.
- Imam is the title of one of the main Muslim religious leaders.

The Al-Masjid Al-Haram, in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, is the largest mosque in the world. Surrounding the Kaaba, the Al-Masjid Al-Haram can accommodate more than 900,000 visitors.
The Five Pillars of Islam

The Five Pillars of Islam are the five obligations that every Muslim must satisfy in order to live a good and responsible life according to Islam.

- Declaration of Faith — Shahadah
- Pray five times a day, facing towards Mecca — Salat
- Pilgrimage to Mecca — Hajj
- Alms giving (charity to the poor) — Zakat
- Fast during Ramadan (9th month of the Islamic calendar), from dawn to sunset — Sawm
Islam is divided into two main sects: Sunni and Shia. The split occurred over a disagreement of who would succeed Muhammad after his death in the year 632.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunni Muslims</th>
<th>Shia Muslims</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ About 85% of all Muslims</td>
<td>☐ About 15% of all Muslims</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Sunni Muslims believed that Abu Bakr, a close companion of the prophet,</td>
<td>☐ Shia Muslims believed that Ali Ibn Abi Talib was real heir picked by the Prophet</td>
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<td>should succeed Muhammad as Caliph.</td>
<td>☐ Ali was the son-in-law and cousin of the Prophet</td>
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<td>☐ Caliph is another title of an Islamic leader.</td>
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Islamic Sects (cont.)

- Similarities of both sects of Islam:
  - All Muslims still have fundamental beliefs
  - They all use the Quran
  - Most live in peace with each other
  - They all still live by the five pillars

Muslims praying, facing the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia