How do the beliefs and practices of Islam shape Muslims’ lives?

Carefully examine the images shown below. These images all relate to Islamic beliefs and practices. What questions do they raise? Write one question you would like answered about each image.

Question:

Question:

Question:

Answers will vary. Accept all reasonable responses.

Question:

Question:
Social Studies Vocabulary
As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

- Qur’an
- Five Pillars of Islam
- Ramadan
- shari’ah
- Sunnah
- mosque
- jihad

Section 1

1. Where are Muslims found in the world today?
   
   *Muslims can be found in the Middle East, North Africa, Asia, and in nearly every country of the world.*

2. Complete the T-chart by listing at least two ways in which Islam is similar to Judaism and Christianity and at least one way in which Islam is different from Judaism and Christianity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Similarities</th>
<th>Differences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>monotheistic</td>
<td>Muslims believe the Qur’an contains God’s final revelations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trace their origins to the prophet Abraham</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scriptures include such figures as Adam, Abraham, and Moses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consider the Torah/New Testament to be a holy book that came from God</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
If your class is doing the activity for this lesson, read your assigned section of the Student Text. Then answer the questions for that section. You will take notes for the other sections during the class presentations. (Note: If your class is not doing the activity, complete the Reading Notes after you read each section.)

Section 2
1. What is the difference between the Qur’an and the Sunnah?
   *The Qur’an is Islam’s sacred book and is considered to be the word of God. In the Qur’an, God describes his laws and moral teachings. The Sunnah, or “practice,” is the example set by Muhammad during his lifetime.*

2. How are hadith related to the Sunnah?
   *The Sunnah contains precedents of behavior set by Muhammad. Hadith are written accounts of Muhammad’s actions that illustrate the Sunnah.*

3. How are the Qur’an and the Sunnah related to the Five Pillars of Islam?
   *The Qur’an provides general commands to perform these five duties, and the Sunnah explains how, using Muhammad’s example.*

Section 3
1. Explain the meaning of the two parts of the Muslim shahadah.
   “There is no god but God…”  “...and Muhammad is the messenger of God”
   “There is no god but God” illustrates the idea of monotheism
   “Muhammad is the messenger of God” identifies Muhammad as God’s messenger or prophet

2. According to Muslims, who is Allah?
   Muslims believe Allah is the one, all-powerful God who created the universe.

3. What do Muslims believe about angels and about judgment?
   Muslims believe that angels do Allah’s work throughout the universe. They believe that everyone will face God’s judgment and that those who properly follow Islam will go to paradise and those who have done evil will go to hell.
Section 4
1. What is salat and what purpose does it serve?
   
   Salat is the Muslim daily prayer ritual that emphasizes religious discipline, spirituality, and closeness to God.

2. Where and how often do Muslims pray?
   
   Muslims pray five times a day, wherever they are (though praying in a mosque is preferable).

3. Describe at least three of the rituals Muslims practice in their daily prayers.
   
   Answers should include at least three of the following: perform a ritual washing of hands, face, arms, and feet; form lines behind a prayer leader called an imam (if in a mosque); face in the direction of Mecca; proclaim “Allahu akbar!” (“God is most great!”); recite verses from the Qur’an; and kneel before God.

Section 5
1. What is zakat and why do Muslims practice it?
   
   Zakat is the practice of charity. Muslims believe that wealth is purified by giving some of it away, that sharing helps control greed, and that giving reminds people of God’s gifts.

2. How much of their surplus wealth are Muslims expected to give to charity?
   
   They are expected to give about one-fortieth (2.5%) of their wealth and possessions, but are encouraged to give more.

3. What kinds of things does zakat pay for?
   
   Zakat pays for orphanages, hospitals, soup kitchens, and clothing and shelter for the poor. It pays debts for the poor and helps stranded travelers.

Section 6
1. What is siyam and when is it performed?
   
   Siyam is daily fasting. It is performed during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar.

2. What rule about food do Muslims observe during Ramadan?
   
   During Ramadan, observant Muslims do not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset.

3. What does Ramadan encourage and teach?
   
   Ramadan encourages generosity, equality, and charity. Fasting teaches self-control, and helps Muslims realize what it would be like to be poor and hungry. Muslims are also encouraged to avoid arguments and bad deeds, to give thanks, and to practice forgiveness.
Section 7
1. What is the hajj and what values does it promote?
   The hajj is the pilgrimage to Mecca that all Muslims are expected to make at least once. It promotes fellowship and equality by bringing Muslims of many cultures and from many places together.

2. What do Muslims do during the hajj?
   They dress in simple white clothing and visit the Great Mosque, which houses the Ka'bah. They circle the Ka'bah seven times, which is a ritual outlined in the Qur'an.

3. What important sites do Muslims visit during the hajj?
   They travel along a passage between two small hills, as Hagar did when she searched for water, and drink from the Zamzam spring. They camp in tents at Mina, pray at the Plain of Arafat, and some climb Mount Arafat.

Section 8
1. In your own words, explain the meaning of jihad.
   Sample response: Jihad means “to strive.” Originally, jihad meant “physical struggle with spiritual significance.” The Qur'an tells Muslims to fight to protect themselves from anyone who wants to hurt them or to fix a terrible injustice.

2. What does the Qur'an tell Muslims to do regarding jihad, and how was this form of jihad interpreted by early Muslims?
   The Qur'an tells Muslims to fight to protect themselves from those who would do them harm or to right a terrible wrong. Early Muslims considered their efforts to protect their territory and extend their rule over other regions to be a form of jihad.

3. How does jihad relate to Muslims and their personal struggles?
   Jihad represents the human struggle to overcome difficulties and do things that would be pleasing to God. Jihad encourages Muslims to strive to respond positively to personal difficulties (the “greater jihad”) as well as to worldly challenges.

Section 9
1. What is shari’ah and how did it develop?
   Shari’ah is the body of Islamic law based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah. It guides Muslims in their behavior. It was developed by caliphs and scholars who used the Qur'an and the Sunnah to solve problems that arose after Muhammad's death.

2. How does shari’ah guide Muslim life?
   Islamic law guides Muslim life by placing actions into one of five categories: forbidden, discouraged, allowed, recommended, and obligatory (required). For example, it forbids Muslims to eat pork.

3. How has shari’ah changed over time?
   Western codes of law have replaced or supplemented shari’ah in many Muslim countries. However, shari’ah continues to develop in response to modern ways of life, and is enforced in different ways in different nations.
PROCESSING

For each of the eight sections of the star below, write a simple word or phrase that explains that belief or practice of Islam. Then create a simple symbol or illustration to help explain it. Place your explanations and illustrations in or next to the appropriate section of the star.

Use this rubric to evaluate the Processing assignment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Student includes a simple phrase or word that clearly explains all eight beliefs or practices of Islam. Illustrations are relevant to the belief or practice they represent. There are no spelling or grammar errors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Student includes a simple phrase or word that explains most of the eight beliefs or practices of Islam. Illustrations show some aspects of the belief or practice they represent. There are some spelling or grammar errors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Student doesn’t include a simple phrase or word for most of the eight beliefs or practices of Islam. Several illustrations are missing. There are many spelling or grammar errors.</td>
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