

# Special Festivals



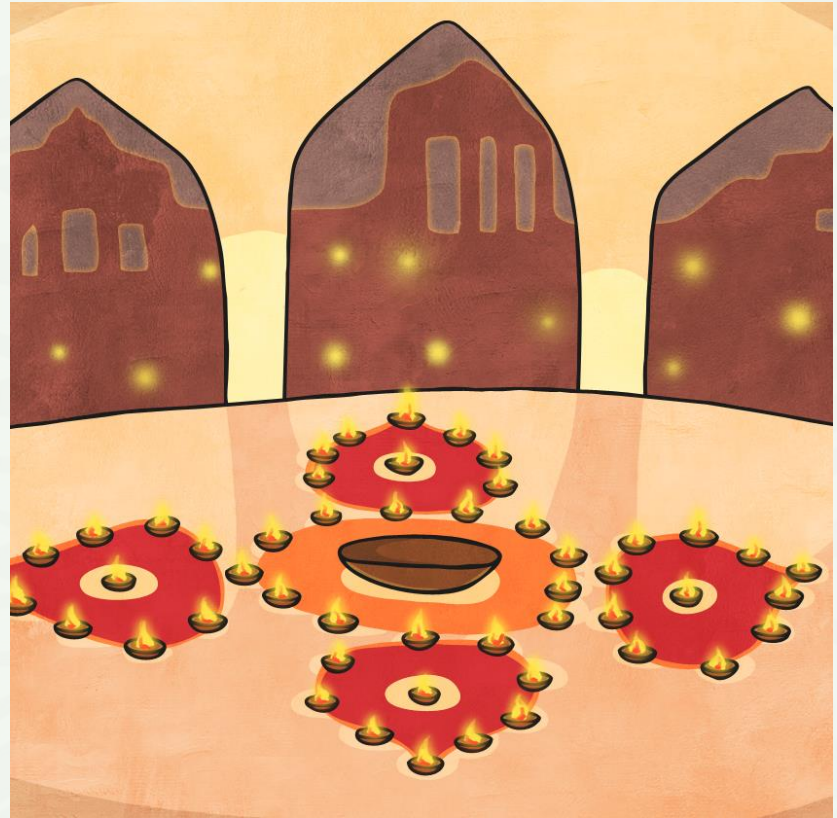
# Celebrations



Which festivals do you celebrate?

**I will now interview some of you with the following questions:**

1. Why do you celebrate that festival?
2. What special things do you eat at that festival?
3. Do you wear any special clothes?
4. Are there any special rituals that you do at this festival?
5. Do you get anything or give anything at this festival?



# Muslim Festivals: Ramadan



The Islamic calendar has twelve months in total. The ninth month of the Islamic calendar is **Ramadan**.

During Ramadan, most Muslims fast during the hours of daylight. This means not eating and drinking only water. The young, elderly or ill are not expected to fast. Muslims fast during Ramadan to help learn self-discipline, self-restraint and generosity. Fasting also reminds them of the suffering of the poor and hungry. Before sunrise, Muslims will have one meal (known as suhoor) and after sunset they will have another meal (known as iftar).

During the month of Ramadan, the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. During Ramadan, Muslims try to give up their bad habits and become better Muslims by praying more or reading the Qur'an. Many Muslims will go to special services at the mosque where the Qur'an is read.



# Muslim Festivals: Eid-ul-Fitr



The festival for the first day after Ramadan is called Eid-ul-Fitr. Muslims celebrate this festival at the end of the fast of Ramadan. This festival lasts three days and family and friends all get together to eat good food, share presents and give to charity.



# Muslim Festivals: Eid-ul-Adha

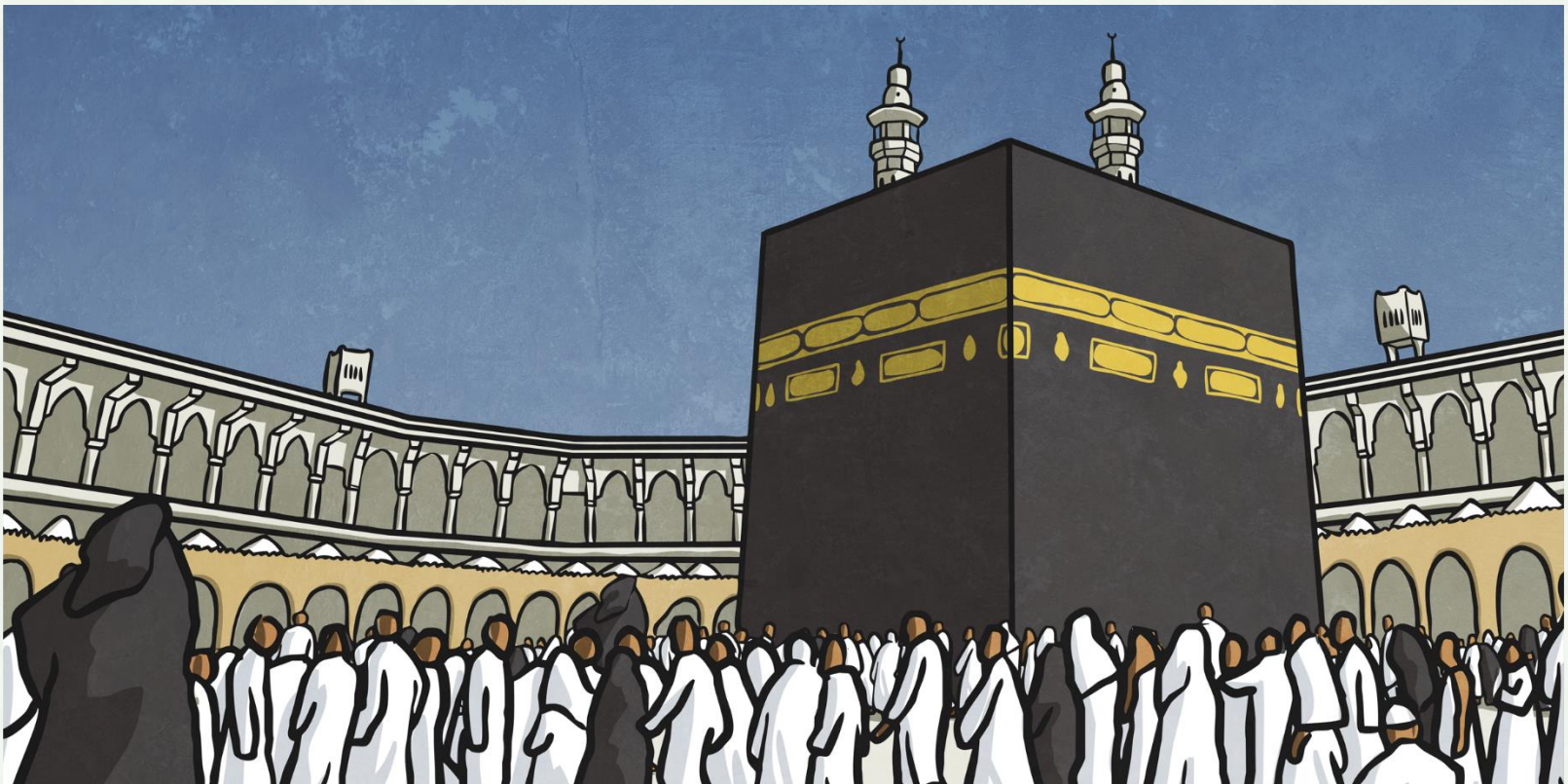


70 days after Eid-ul-Fitr, Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Adha (The Festival of Sacrifice). This festival remembers when Abraham was going to sacrifice his son to show his obedience to Allah. It also marks the end of the Hajj. It happens in the last month of the Islamic calendar.

# Muslim Festivals: Dhu-Al-Hijja



This is the month of pilgrimage. It is when all Muslims, at least once in their life, should try and make the pilgrimage to Mecca.



# Muslim Festivals: Al Hijra



This is the Islamic New Year. It begins on the day Muhammad left Mecca to travel to Medina.

