**Islam**

Islam is a monotheistic religious tradition that developed in the Middle East in the 7th century C.E. Islam, which literally means "surrender" or "submission," was founded on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad as an expression of surrender to the will of Allah, the creator and sustainer of the world.

The Quran, the sacred text of Islam, contains the teachings of the Prophet that were revealed to him from Allah. Essential to Islam is the belief that Allah is the one and true God with no partner or equal. Islam has several branches and much variety within those branches.

The two divisions within the tradition are the Sunni and Shi'a, each of which claims different means of maintaining religious authority. One of the unifying characteristics of Islam is the Five Pillars, the fundamental practices of Islam. These five practices include a ritual profession of faith, ritual prayer, the zakat (charity), fasting, and the hajj (a pilgrimage to Mecca). Many Muslims are characterized by their commitment to praying to Allah five times a day.

One of the defining characteristics of Islam is the primacy of sacred places including Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem. Muslims gather at mosques to worship Allah, pray, and study scripture. There is not a sharp distinction between the religious and secular aspects of life in Islam; all aspects of a Muslim's life are to be oriented to serving Allah. Islam expanded almost immediately beyond its birthplace in the Arabian peninsula, and now has significant influence in Africa, throughout Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

**Approximate Date of Founding-** 610 C.E.

**Deity**- Allah(God)

**Prophet**- Muhammad

**Holy Book**- The Quran

**Major Religious Locations**- Jerusalem (Dome of the Rock), Mecca, Median

**Current Head Quarters**- Mecca/Medina

**Current Leader**- No Current Global Leader

**Approximate Followers**- 1.5 Billion

**Percentage of World Followers**- 21%

**Rank in World Religions**- 2

**Religious Symbol**- The Crescent Moon

**Divisions**- Shiite Muslims: 150 million Sunni: 1.2 Billion

# Islam

G U Q W J A S V M C I Q B J U Q E A V Q Z I Z C B B H Z G E D E S V K C D M X J G N Y C Q T H D S N H M Y W D L O X U K A Q Q J G U O J X E S L T Z R O M P S E V L T N S I U Q U T O L I S K Y Y P K X G M W Q Z K T E C H U K P R N V T C Q I V M U E R W G N U F F V Q I V D S B S M C C G I N A C W Q Q Q O D R B V U Q M Y U W M N F H Q Q J F X N U D M X W D D E R D B W H H T I J X M S Q N Y H K C I T O L U H H W Q O Z M D O Y X S B H N G A N Q W U W P I J I O L S A A Q Q C M P E S H H X J E G Z H T P N S S R R V J M K P R I B I U L O K E Z H L J N N U P A S K E V H S A M T Y W U U P E E X Q E F E A S L H A S X Q X K D O K I H Y N T H I D E H Z R T L E K V M I M D F N Z L S R A L L I P E V I F B Z Q R Y T P L B P R I H L S X U N E U O M T O T S R F D D W Q C I B G A N X K N I X Q R V P X Y A J M B K E X B G G I E F S J V J R L S N W C O D U F T H C Q X A K R B E H O B E R M M G U D J F L B F Y R H Y S P A L L A H C D W T G Z F L M W B L W O O N C Q F F K A O X H J Q C H U Q C M I U X P G L T S Z B R Y P K B Q I Z L R X N J C V G M M T E O G B O Y C W K V M V K I J D U O V Q T M E N R F J X Y M Q M C K F L X M P N E O H I O F T Q U J C M U Y Y I I J S I Y Z X C W T A N M N J Y U X J P I F W B G X Z K M T Z C O B M P J F Y V A J I F L P D Q Y A L B U K P Y P Y P H K D L T K G Z Y T Q N E Q S P H M U U V T K Z M P W U N A A K Z E E H O Y L P D V J P J X J G N E D H W I P I Q J P L D R Q T G M V J V K G U Z F J A R Y W Q T G R M Y Y D X J U Q K A S J A X Z F Q W X D X G P S T L Z S F T J K H L Q N D K N A O M H S S Q I I Z W Q R I T P K Q Y E L J G C J Q P Q I L N E U X V O G E I E E I F R J O F W M P K P Q M A E P L R B B E N M Y G G R L U S D U O C H T Y L C Z O D L T Z Y G D O Y C G U E B N O D V W A O Y G P W N K W G Y X K L X I H S Y A Y T W K Q H O P R R D A G R F O H T Q

ALLAH

CRESENT MOON

FIVE PILLARS

HAJJ

MECCA

MEDINA

MOSQUES

MUHAMMAD

PRAYER

QURAN

SHIITE

SUNNI

ZAKAT