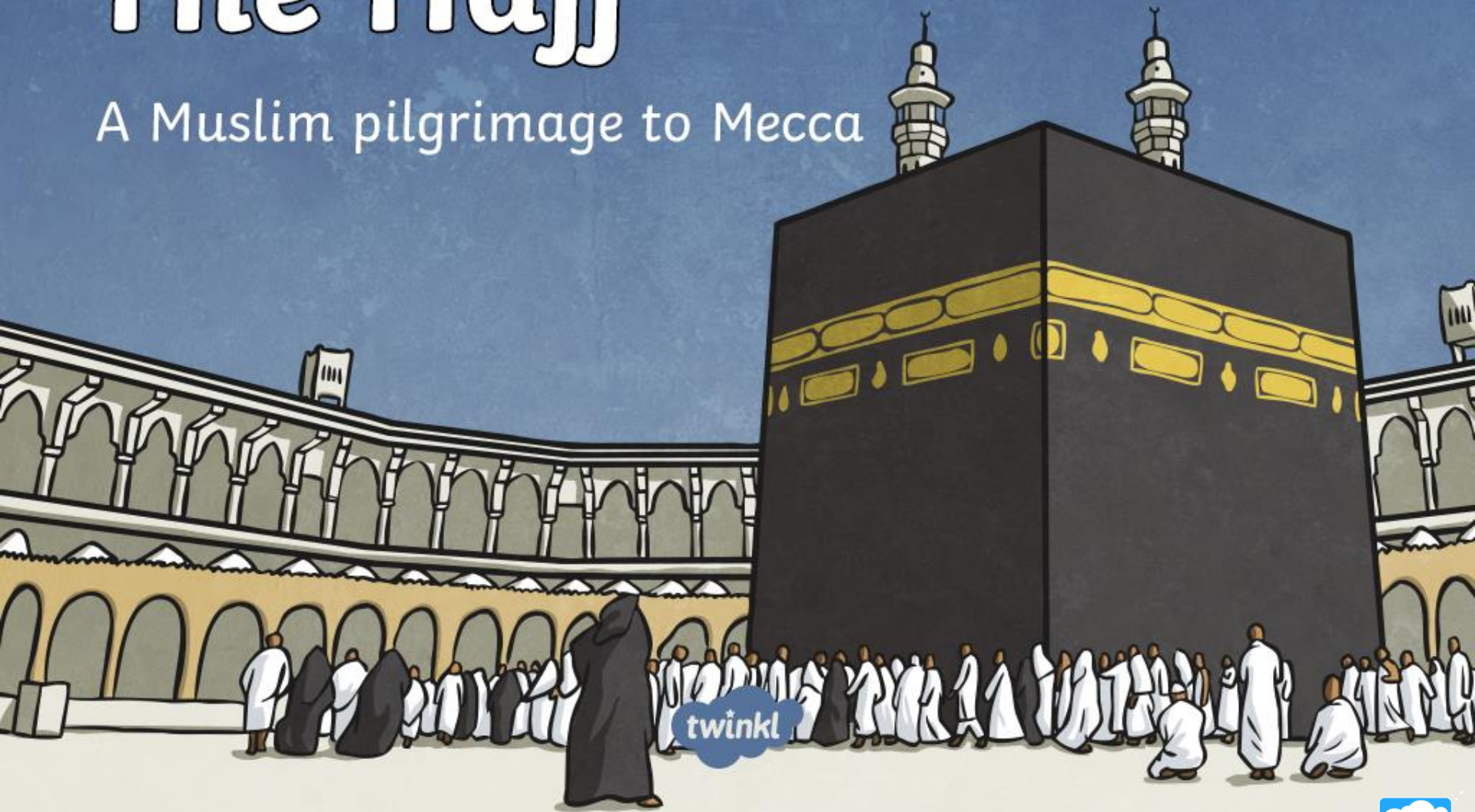


The Hajj

A Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca



What is Hajj

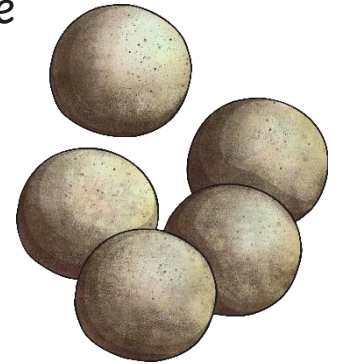
- Hajj means 'special journey'
- It is one of the five pillars of Islam.
- All Muslims try to do Hajj at least once in their lives. But it can be difficult to get the money and time to travel.
- Millions of people go to Mecca for Hajj every year.



What Do Muslim Pilgrims Do during Hajj?

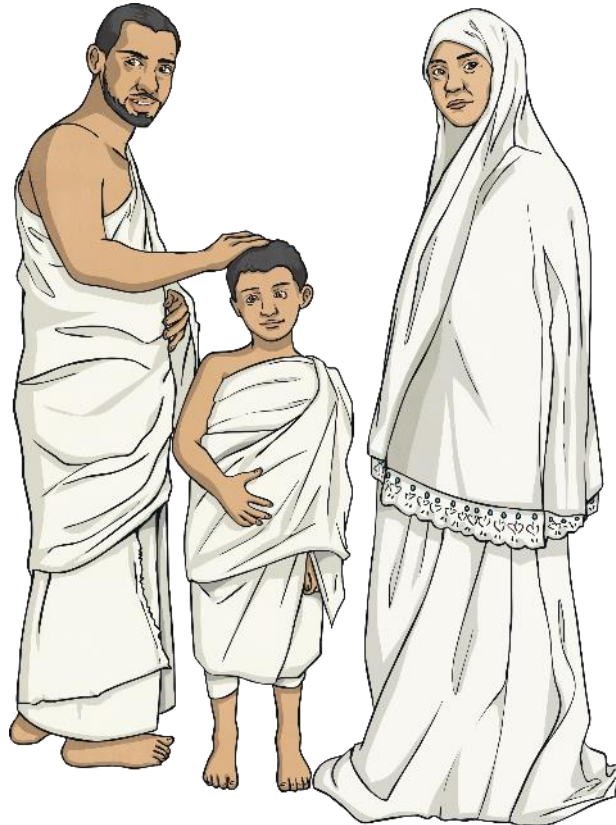
During [Hajj](#), millions of pilgrims arrive in [Mecca](#) and perform a series of rituals.

- The pilgrims visit the [Ka'bah](#) in Mecca and walk around it seven times.
- They run between two mounts called Safa and Marwa.
- The pilgrims go to the plains of Mount [Arafat](#) to stand in vigil and spend a night on the plain of Muzdalifah.
- They camp in Mina and throw seven small stones at three stone pillars, which symbolise the devil.
- The men shave their hair and sacrifice an animal as performed by the prophet Abraham.
- Finally, the pilgrims return to Mecca to the Ka'bah and circle it seven times again.



What Do Pilgrims wear?

The cloth of the pilgrim is known as [ihram](#). White cloth is worn so all people are equal, whether rich or poor.



The Ka'bah

The pilgrims visit the Ka'bah in Mecca and walk around it seven times, anti-clockwise.



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Muslims believe that the Ka'bah was built by the prophet Abraham and his son, Ishmail, 4000 years ago.

It is the first house built to worship Allah and has been made larger over the years.

Returning to Mecca

At the end of Hajj pilgrims travel back to Mecca to the Ka'bah and circle it seven times again.

Once the pilgrims have completed all the rituals, they are given a new title. They can now be known as 'Hajji'.

After successful pilgrimage, pilgrims can prefix their names with the title 'Al-Hajji' and are held with respect in Muslim society.

Hajj brings together and unites the Muslims from different parts of the world irrespective of their race, colour and culture.

