

Eid al-Adha Comprehension

Eid al-Adha, the 'Feast of the Sacrifice' is the larger of the two Eids in the Islamic calendar. It takes place over 3 or 4 days and is sometimes called 'Big Eid' or 'Greater Eid'.

Eid al-Adha honours the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his son as instructed by Allah. Read the story below.



The story of Ibrahim and Ismail

The Prophet Ibrahim had a dream in which he was asked by Allah to sacrifice (kill) his son, Ismail. Ibrahim believed this dream to be the work of the devil (Shaytan).

The dream kept repeating itself, so Ibrahim realised that it was really Allah asking him to do this. He sadly agreed to carry out this terrible task.

Ibrahim and Ismail began to make their way to the mountaintop. On the way, they were met by the devil who tried to talk Ibrahim out of obeying Allah. Ibrahim threw stones at him to drive him away.

Upon reaching the mountaintop, Ibrahim was about to kill Ismail, when the Angel Jibril appeared and stopped him.

Jibril gave Ibrahim a ram (male sheep) to sacrifice instead of Ismail.

The Angel told Ibrahim that the fact he had been willing to obey Allah's commands meant that he had shown sacrifice.

Islam uses a calendar based on the phases of the moon, so the exact time of Eid al-Adha changes slightly from year to year. Eid al-Adha begins on the tenth day of the last month of the Islamic calendar.

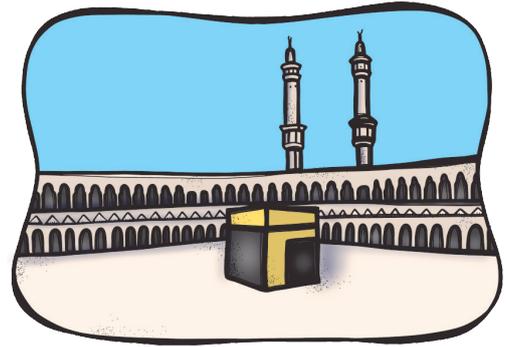
The day that Eid al-Adha begins is also the last day of Hajj. Hajj is the fifth of the Five Pillars of Islam. Hajj is the pilgrimage to Mecca, in Saudi Arabia, that every Muslim must try to make at least once in their lifetime.

Eid al-Adha Comprehension

Eid al-Adha and Hajj

Muslims who are on Hajj in Mecca at the start of Eid al-Adha will throw seven small stones at a stone wall known as Jamrat al-Aqabah. This is believed to be the place where Ibrahim was when he threw stones at the devil to drive it away as he was on his way to the mountaintop to sacrifice Ismail.

They then return to Mecca to circle the Kaaba seven times. The **Kaaba** is a stone cube in the Grand Mosque. It is believed to have been built by the Prophet Ibrahim and his son, Ismail, and is the most sacred spot in Islam.



Eid al-Adha at home

Muslims who are not on Hajj on the morning of the first day of Eid al-Adha will take part in prayer known as Salat al-Eid. After prayers are finished, an animal — often a goat or a sheep — will be killed as a sacrifice. This sacrifice represents the ram that Ibrahim was given to sacrifice instead of his son, Ismail. The meat is then shared equally between three groups — one third is kept by the family, one third is given to friends and relatives and the final third is given to people in need.

Eid al-Adha is a time when Muslims will dress in their best clothes and meet with friends and family. Often gifts will be exchanged, and donations made to help the poor. Muslims will greet each other by saying, “**Eid Mubarak**” which means, “Have a blessed Eid”. Many people decorate their hands with henna decorations known as **mehndi**.

As well as eating the meat from the animal that has been sacrificed, other foods eaten during Eid al-Adha include: samosas, pakoras, rice dishes and many sweet treats.

Eid al-Adha Comprehension

Questions:

1. What does Eid al-Adha mean?

.....

2. Why does the exact date of Eid al-Adha change slightly every year?

.....

.....



3. Number the stages in the story of Ibrahim and Ismael.
The first stage is numbered for you.

On the mountaintop, Ibrahim was about to kill Ismail, when the Angel Jibril stopped him, giving him a ram (male sheep) to sacrifice instead.	
The Prophet Ibrahim kept dreaming that Allah had asked him to show his obedience by sacrificing his son.	1
The dream kept repeating itself, so Ibrahim finally admitted to himself that it was Allah making this request of him.	
Ibrahim and his son, Ismail, made their way to the mountaintop. On the way, the devil (Shaytan) tried to talk Ibrahim out of obeying Allah, so Ibrahim threw stones at him until he went away.	

4. How is the meat from the animals that are sacrificed (killed) during Eid al-Adha shared out?

.....

.....

Eid al-Adha Comprehension

5. What do you think it means to 'show obedience'?

.....

.....

6. Draw lines to match each word or phrase with the correct definition.

Hajj

The name given to the patterns that are painted onto hands during Eid.

Kaaba

The pilgrimage to Mecca that Muslims must try and do at least once.

Eid Mubarak

Seen as the most sacred place in Islam, this large stone cube is located in Mecca.

Mehndi

A greeting said during Eid al-Adha meaning 'May you have a blessed Eid'.

7. Why is Eid al-Adha so important to Muslims?

.....

.....

