

manners are important. They teach their children to respect others. The Muslim way of life begins moments after a baby is born. The father whispers the name of God, Allah, into his child's ear. Muslims raise their children to have high standards. Muslims are taught to not kill, lie, steal, cheat, or betray their country. They don't gamble, commit adultery, or drink alcohol.

Muslims also have fun. They enjoy wonderful festivals that celebrate historical events. Other holidays honor the Five Pillars of Islam. Births and marriages are marked by great celebrations. During Ramadan, Muslims fast between sunrise and sunset. A celebration called *Id al-Fitr* marks the end of the fast.

Muslims prepare delicious foods for these celebrations. Sharing food is an important part of Muslim life. (After all, food was hard to find in the desert.) Yummy pastries called *hama* are covered with honey. Cookies called *kuch* are made with palm sugar. Lamb kebobs are also popular. Muslims do not eat pork as they follow certain dietary rules.

Today there are 1.3 billion Muslims worldwide. The name Muhammad, which means, "highly praised," is given to more boys than any other name. Muslims have variations on their customs in different countries, but they are united in their belief in Allah. Their Call to Prayer summarizes their faith:

*Allah is the greatest.
I bear witness that there is no God but Allah.
I bear witness that Muhammad is his Prophet.
Hasten to prayer, hasten to success.
Allah is the greatest. There is no God but Allah.*

What Is Islam?

Questions

- _____ 1. Which angel is reported to have appeared to Mohammad?
 - A. Michael
 - B. Gabriel
 - C. Raphael
 - D. none of the above

- _____ 2. Why did Muhammad go to Mount Hira?
 - A. He needed more rocks for his collection.
 - B. He enjoyed hiking.
 - C. He was persecuted by his neighbors.
 - D. He felt something was missing in his life.

- _____ 3. Which of the following is not one of the Five Pillars of Islam?
 - A. giving to the poor
 - B. praying five times a day
 - C. living in Mecca
 - D. declaring the faith

- _____ 4. What is the name of the building where Muslims pray?
 - A. a cathedral
 - B. a mosque
 - C. a synagogue
 - D. a temple