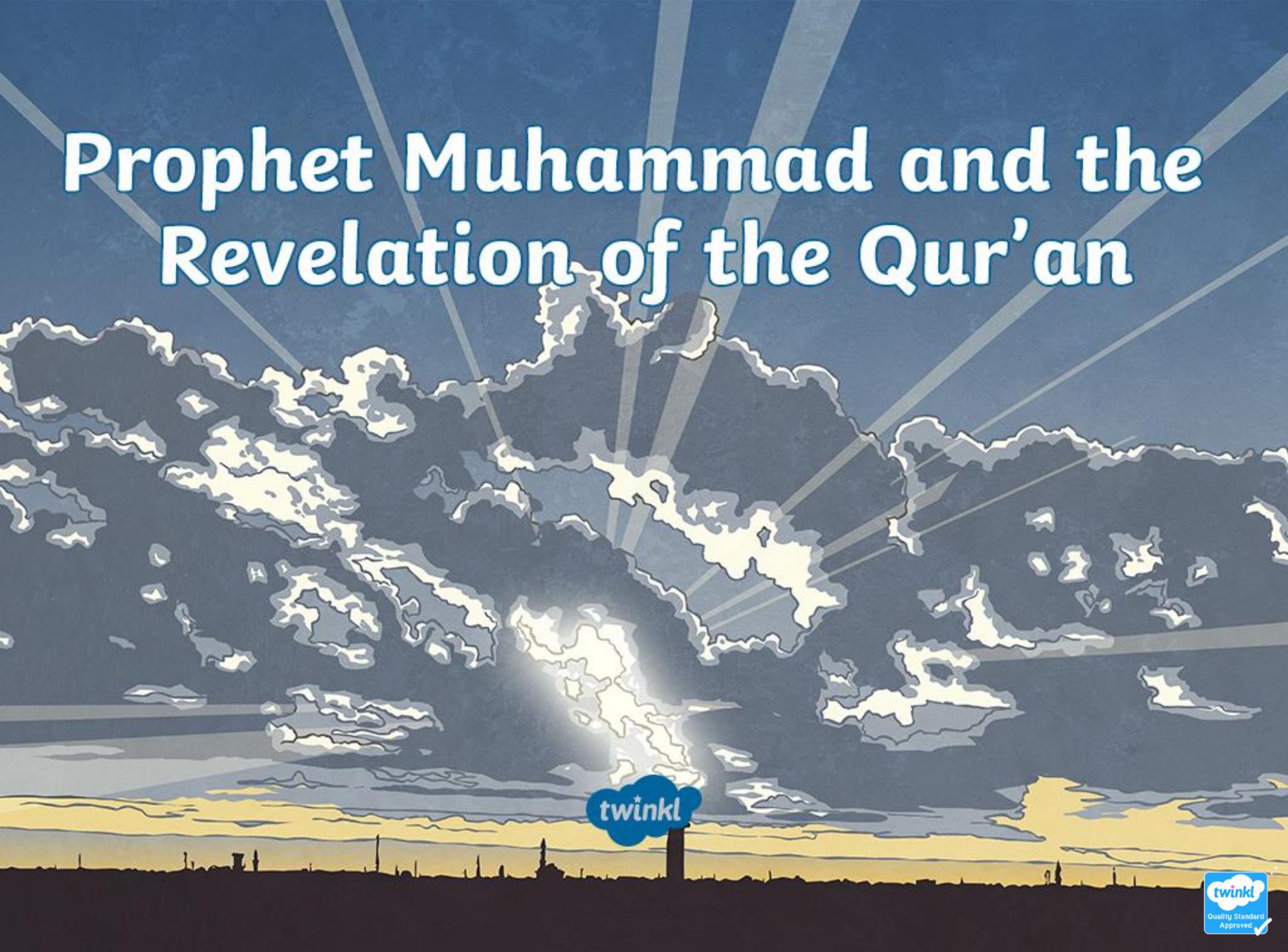


Prophet Muhammad and the Revelation of the Qur'an



What is Islam? What is a Muslim?

Christianity is the world's largest religion.

Islam is the second largest religion.

Just as Christianity, Islam teaches that God is merciful, powerful and unique, and that people can call on God when they are in need and distressed.

In the religion of Islam, God is known by the name **Allah**.

People who follow Islam are known as **Muslims**.

Muslims believe that Islam has always existed and was brought to them through a group of people called **prophets**.



Did you know...? The word prophet means 'messenger'.

Who was Muhammad?

Muslims believe that the last prophet was **Muhammad**.

Prophet Muhammad is so important to Muslims that whenever they say his name, they also say '**Peace be upon him**'. When they write his name they also write '**Peace be upon him**' but sometimes shorten it to PBUH.



Did you know...? The word prophet means 'messenger'.

The Qur'an

Just as the Bible is special to Christians, The **Qur'an**, is the special, or holy book of Islam. It is written in Arabic. Muslims believe God gave the words to a small number of specially chosen prophets. The Qur'an is the word of God. It gives lessons to teach people right and wrong, just like the Bible does.



Anyone who handles or touches the Qur'an has to follow certain rules. They must be clean and wash in a special way called **ablutions**.

I wonder...Why do you think Muslims believe it's important to wash before handling the Qur'an?

The Revelation of the Qur'an

Muhammad was born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia in AD 570. He worked as a merchant and was well known for being honest. He was a great believer and would often go to think and pray on Mount Hira.

One day, he was meditating in a cave on Mount Hira when **Angel Gabriel** appeared to him. The angel spoke to him. The angel said the word 'Allah' and began to talk to Muhammad. Immediately, Muhammad found he could recite the words Gabriel said. He believed they came straight from God. This was his first revelation from God.



I wonder...Where else have you heard stories of Angel Gabriel?

Prophet Muhammad

Over the next 22 years, Muhammad received more messages from God. These revelations were written down as the **Qur'an**.

From that time, Muhammad was known as **Prophet Muhammad**. He preached about the revelations for the rest of his life. He is now known as the person who started Islam.



Prophet Muhammad believed God (Allah) had chosen him to preach what Allah had told him. He knew he had to go out and tell the world.

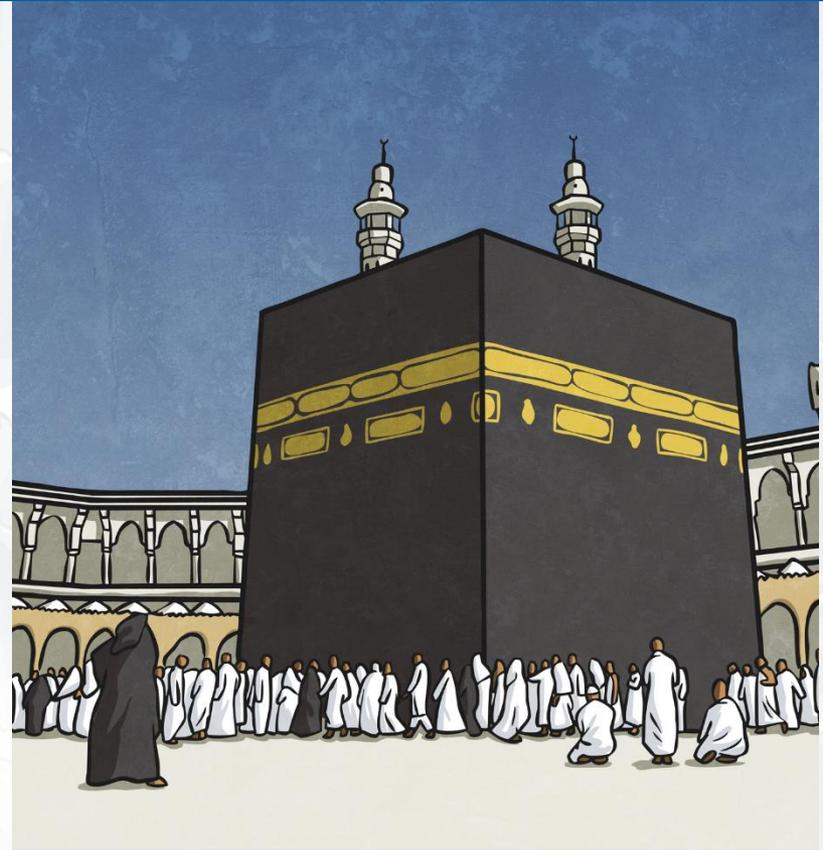
The main message in the Qur'an is that there is no other God but Allah.



Pilgrimages

Prophet Muhammad died in AD 632 in Medina. He is buried there. Muslims believe that Muhammad was the last prophet of Islam. Many Muslims travel on pilgrimages to the birth place of Muhammad as a sign of respect and to pray. Many also travel to Medina, where he died.

I wonder... Think of the stories and life of Jesus. What holy cities and places would Christians travel to?



Mecca



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