The Five Pillars of Islam

The Muslim faith is based on five duties. They are often referred to as the “five pillars” of Islam. (A pillar is a support on which the roof of a building rests.) These “pillars” lay the foundation of the observant Muslim’s life and his duty to Allah.

On construction paper, you are going to create a large drawing of five pillars supporting a roof (see clip art below) labeled Islam. On each pillar in your drawing, you will record one of the duties Muslims must perform as well as a short description or information about it.

After you have recorded the duties and their explanations on your drawing of the pillars, you will decorate the whole drawing using the geometric designs (see the 3 examples at bottom of page) common to mosques. Remember that the designs should not show any human or animal forms and they should be very colorful.

Here is a piece of clip art so you can see what pillars look like with the type of dome a mosque would have on top of it.

Here are two pieces of clip art of the architecture of a mosque

Every Muslim must carry out the Five Pillars of Faith:

- **Shahada** A Muslim must acknowledge that “There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet.”
- **Salat** A Muslim must pray 5 times daily facing Mecca: at dawn, at noon, in the mid-afternoon, at dusk, and after dark.
- **Sakat** Each Muslim must pay alms (2.5% of their income) to the government. This is a tax to help the poorer members of the community.
- **Sawm** A Muslim must fast for the month of Ramadan. During the fasting month, one must refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, and sexual intercourse from dawn until sunset.
- **Hajj** A Muslim must make a pilgrimage to Mecca. Every adult Muslim who is physically and financially able to do so must make this pilgrimage at least once in his or her lifetime. During the hajj, Muslims participate in activities to re-enact the important events in the life of Muhammad.