

Al-Hijra

What is Al-Hijra?

Al-Hijra is the start of the Muslim New Year. The New Year begins on the first day of the month of Muharram. This year it will begin on Tuesday 11th September and will last for one day. Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar and a time of remembrance or mourning. The New Year is a time for reflection on the past and hope for the future.

How did it begin?

Prophet Muhammad is the final prophet of Islam. He worked mostly in and around birthplace of Mecca, now called Saudi Arabia. Muhammad's main message was that there was one god, Allah.

At that time, most people in the area worshipped many gods at the Ka'ba in Mecca. The leaders of Mecca made lots of money from the people who made pilgrimages there. The leaders did not want Muhammad's ideas to affect their money making. Overtime, the Meccan leaders started to persecute Muhammad and his followers.

Eventually, Muhammad decided to leave Mecca. Word of his preaching had reached a city north of Mecca known as Yathrib. Muhammad received an invite from the people there to become their leader. Facing *persecution* in Mecca and having recently lost his wife Khadijah, Muhammad accepted the offer.

Muhammed's journey from Mecca to Yathrib, in 622 CE, is known as the Hijrah. This is the date from which the Muslims started their calendar. The city of Yathrib later became known as Medinah.

During Al-Hijra

Many Muslims fast during the daylight hours of this time. To 'fast' means that you don't eat food during the day and have one main meal in the evening. They do it to show discipline.

Persecution:

To suffer ill-treatment, especially because of religious beliefs.





1. What is the month of Muharram a particular a time for?

2. What does Al-Hijra mark?

3. Where was the Prophet Muhammad born?

4. Why did the Prophet Muhammad leave Mecca?

5. Where did he travel to and why?

6. What do Muslims do during the start of a New Year?

7. What are your thoughts about 'fasting'?

8. What does 'pilgrimage' mean? You can use a thesaurus if necessary.

Answers

1. What is the month of Muharram a particular a time for?

The month of Muharram a particular a time for remembrance or mourning.

2. What does Al-Hijra mark?

Al-Hijra marks when the Prophet Muhammad moved from Mecca to Medina.

3. Where was the Prophet Muhammad born?

The Prophet Muhammad was born in Mecca.

4. Why did the Prophet Muhammad leave Mecca?

The Prophet Muhammad left Mecca because he was being persecuted / ill - treated for his beliefs.

5. Where did he travel to and why?

The Prophet Mohammad travelled from Mecca to a city called Yathrib because he received an invite from the people there to become their leader.

6. What do Muslims do during the start of a New Year?

Muslims reflect on their New Year's resolutions and the past year during the start of a New Year.

7. What are your thoughts about 'fasting'?

Pupil's own response based on not being able to eat during the day.

8. What does 'pilgrimage' mean? You can use a thesaurus if necessary.

A pilgrimage is a journey to a shrine or other location of importance to a person's beliefs and faith.

