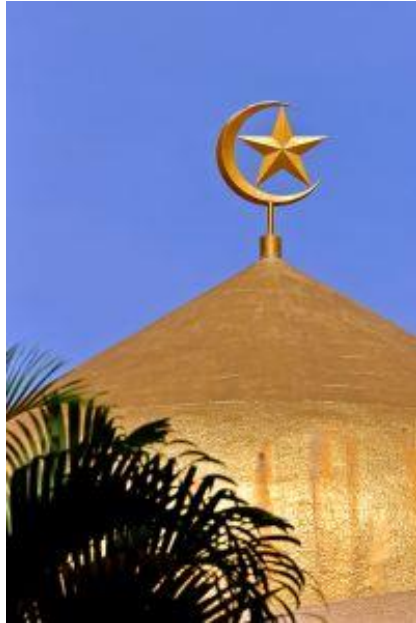




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Islam for R.E. Educators

By Mrs Luzita Ball

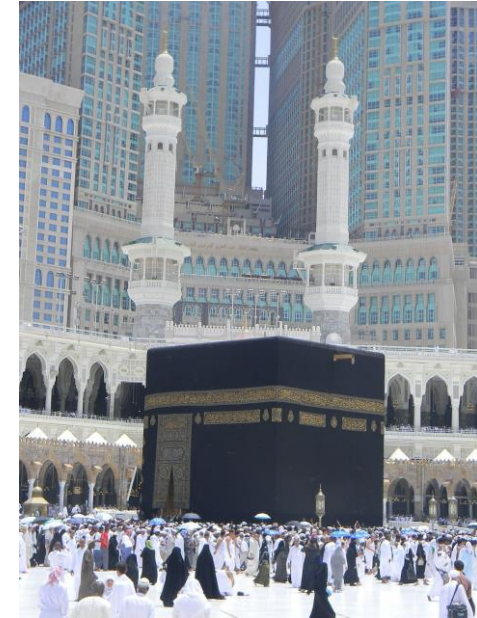
SACRE Member, Northamptonshire

Community Support worker

Pearls of Peace women's Community Group Committee,
Northampton

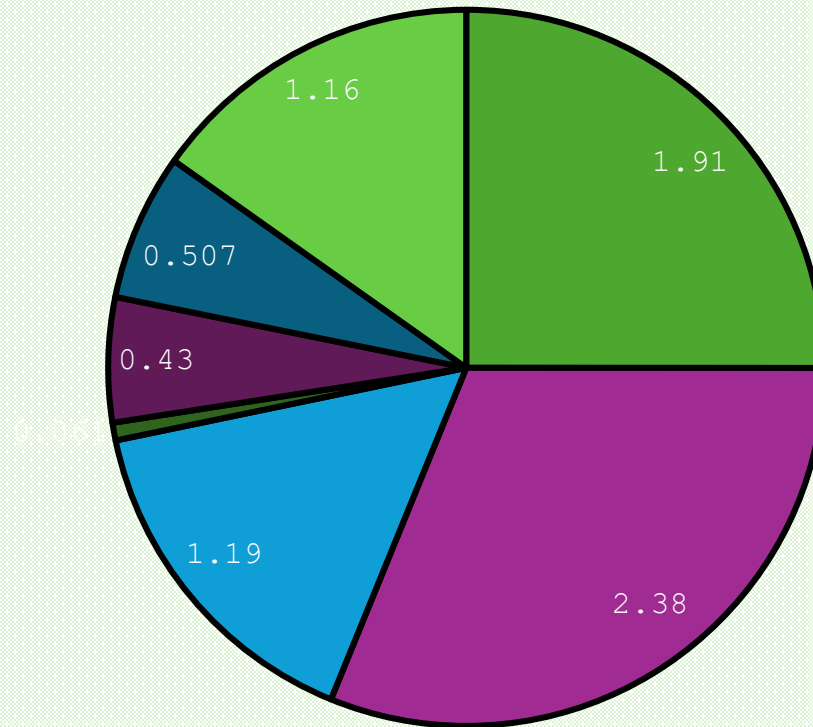
Group Lead Volunteer
58th Ihsan Northampton, Muslim Scouts group

Trustee of The Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences, UK



Global population by Religion in Billions in 2020

Total population was about 7.6 Billion



- Islam
- Christianity
- Atheism & Agnosticism
- Other religions
- Folk Religions
- Buddhism
- Hinduism

World Population
Review estimates
for 2020



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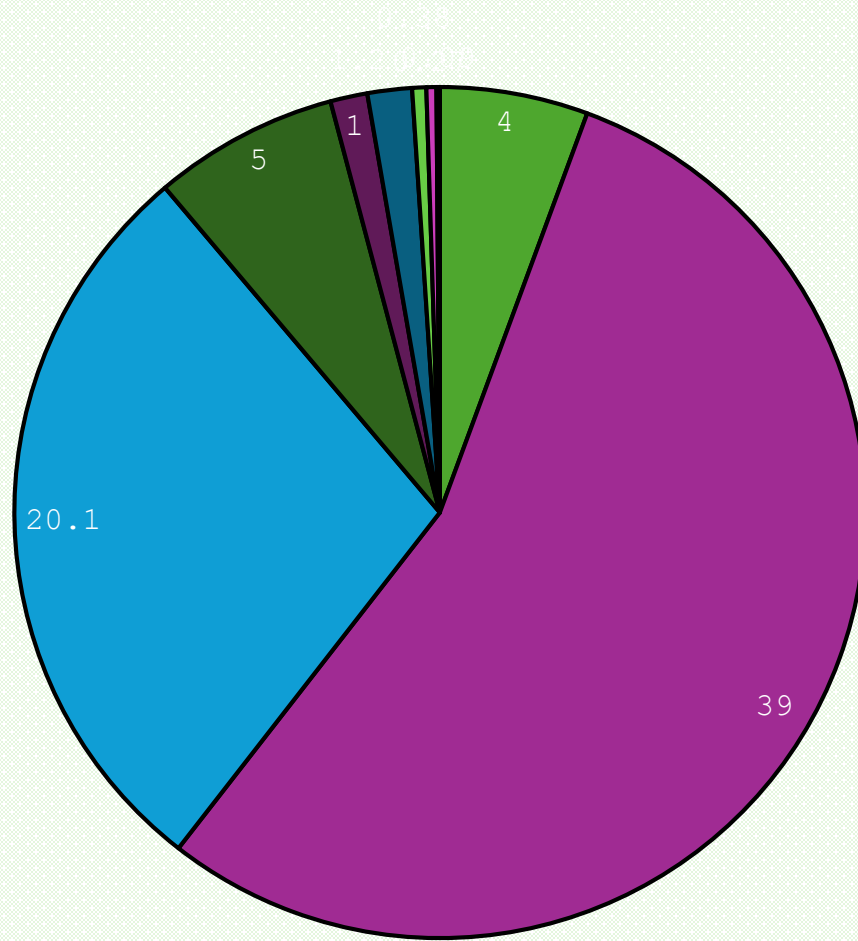


- Islam = The Way of peace, safety and security through willing submission and obedient devotion to God's Will (Allah)
- Muslims are followers of the way of life and religion of Islam.
- The majority of Muslims live in northern and Central Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia, but Muslims are from all over the world

Some countries are more than 95% Muslim including:

- Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia- Herzegovinia in Europe
- Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya (all in North Africa) Somalia and Sudan in North-East Africa
- Turkey, Pakistan, The Maldives and Afghanistan (in Asia)
- Indonesia in the Far East
- Yemen, Syria, Kuwait, Iraq, and Iran in the Middle East
- **There are 50 Muslim Majority countries worldwide (Muslims more than 50%) (World Population Review, 2025)**

UK Population in percentages by Religion



Islam

Other religions

Christianity

Hinduism

No religion

Sikhism

The World
Population
Review
estimate was
that Muslims =
6.2%
or 4 million
out of a 64.3
million total
UK population
in 2020

- 50% of Muslims in the UK were born in the UK, and 92% speak English as their main language (BBC, 2025)
- Most Muslims live in large cities such as Birmingham, Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield, Blackburn, Manchester, Leicester, Luton and Greater London
- Ethnically - mostly Pakistani and Bengali, but also many are Somali, Sudanese, Middle Eastern Arab and North African, West and East African, Southeast Asian & others (Dr Abdul Azim Ahmed, 2021) including many Turkish.
- Based upon extrapolation from research - about 170,000 Muslims in the UK are (black and white British) converts (*Independent Newspaper* 2011), mostly women. Approx. 5000 new converts per yr. (Faith Matters Think Tank 2011)
- Approx. 5% Shia, 77% Sunni, 18% other (Wikiwand.com, 2011)
- Muslims make up 3.5% of the population in West Northamptonshire and 1.5% in North-Northamptonshire



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Islam can come into the following modules in the agreed R.E. syllabus:

EYFS & Key Stage 1:

0.1, 0.4, 1.1, 1.4, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6

Key Stage 2:

3.2, 3.4, 3.6, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 5.1, 5.5, 5.6, 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5

Key Stage 3:

7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.6, 8.1, 8.5, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.5, 9.6

Q: What is it like to be a member of this community?

A: In many countries I am a part of a majority, as about one quarter of the world are Muslims- so this helps me to feel confident

- As a convert, I am especially usually welcomed and loved and respected
- feel quite at home and comfortable and at peace
- feel close due to sharing values and beliefs and have a similar way of life
- big family of people from all over the world- many interesting and varied cultures- food, clothes and traditions- a lot of friendliness and compassion
- In Europe: converts to Islam are estimated to be about 2% of the population, and represent only 0.12% of the UK population
- I am personally a British convert, child of converts to Sunni Islam- a minority within the minority- and on many boundaries, but I do feel a part and try to be a positive part of the mainstream Muslim community, and of my extended non-Muslim family, neighbourhood and society



Core values:

Gratefulness to God,
acting for God's sake
only;

Seeking God's
wisdom and
knowledge;

Seeking Truth,
justice, and peace;

Patience, sacrifice
and courage;

Family & friendship;

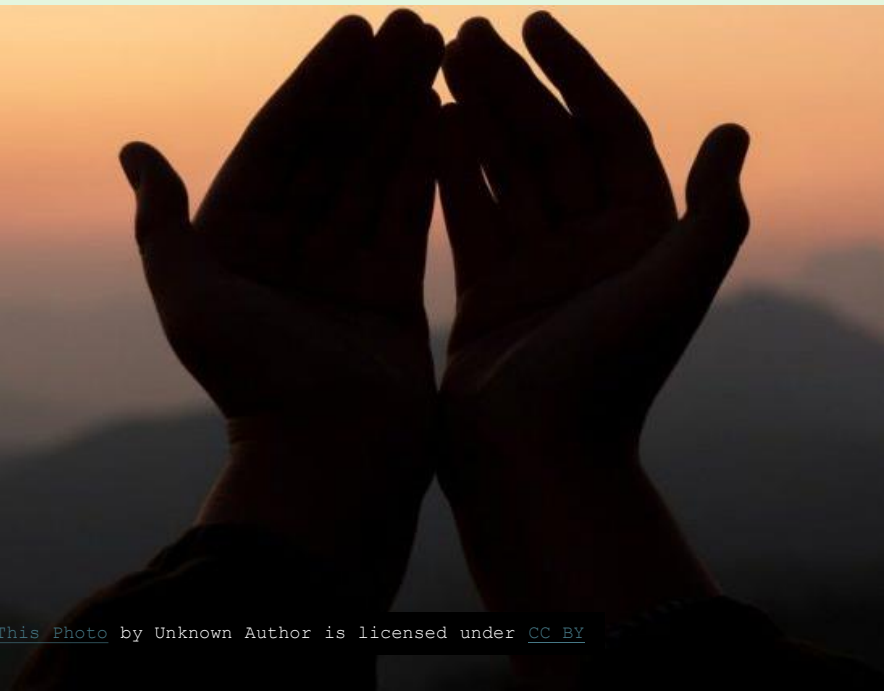
Becoming better
human beings;

Kindness,
compassion & love;

All to find true and
long-term
happiness and
contentment, in
closeness to God's
Love and Presence.

Islam: Core beliefs:

- Human beings were created by the One True God (Allaah) with the purpose of worshipping, obeying and serving Him above all others, for the good of all creation. Humans are very limited and always in need of God's guidance and help.
- Life is a test of who will use their life to seek Truth, acknowledge, and speak Truth and live by the Truth about God and our relationship with Him
- That Allah revealed His Words directly to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), as recorded in The Qur'an, and that Muhammad (pbuh) is the last in a long line of true prophets and messengers, most recently Jesus (pbuh) who Muhammad bore witness was the true Messiah. All were sent to show human beings by example, the best way to live according to the Most Wise and All-Knowing God.
- Human beings would be most successful and happy in this life and the next if they read and followed the guidance in the Qur'an and the example of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), and the other prophets who came before him, the record of whose messages Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) came to correct and complete
- Belief in One God, Scriptures inspired by God, Prophets, Angels, Free Will and Destiny, Good and Evil, Angels, Devils, and other Jinn, The Day of Resurrection and Judgement of all souls by God, and existence of eternal Paradise and Hellfire.

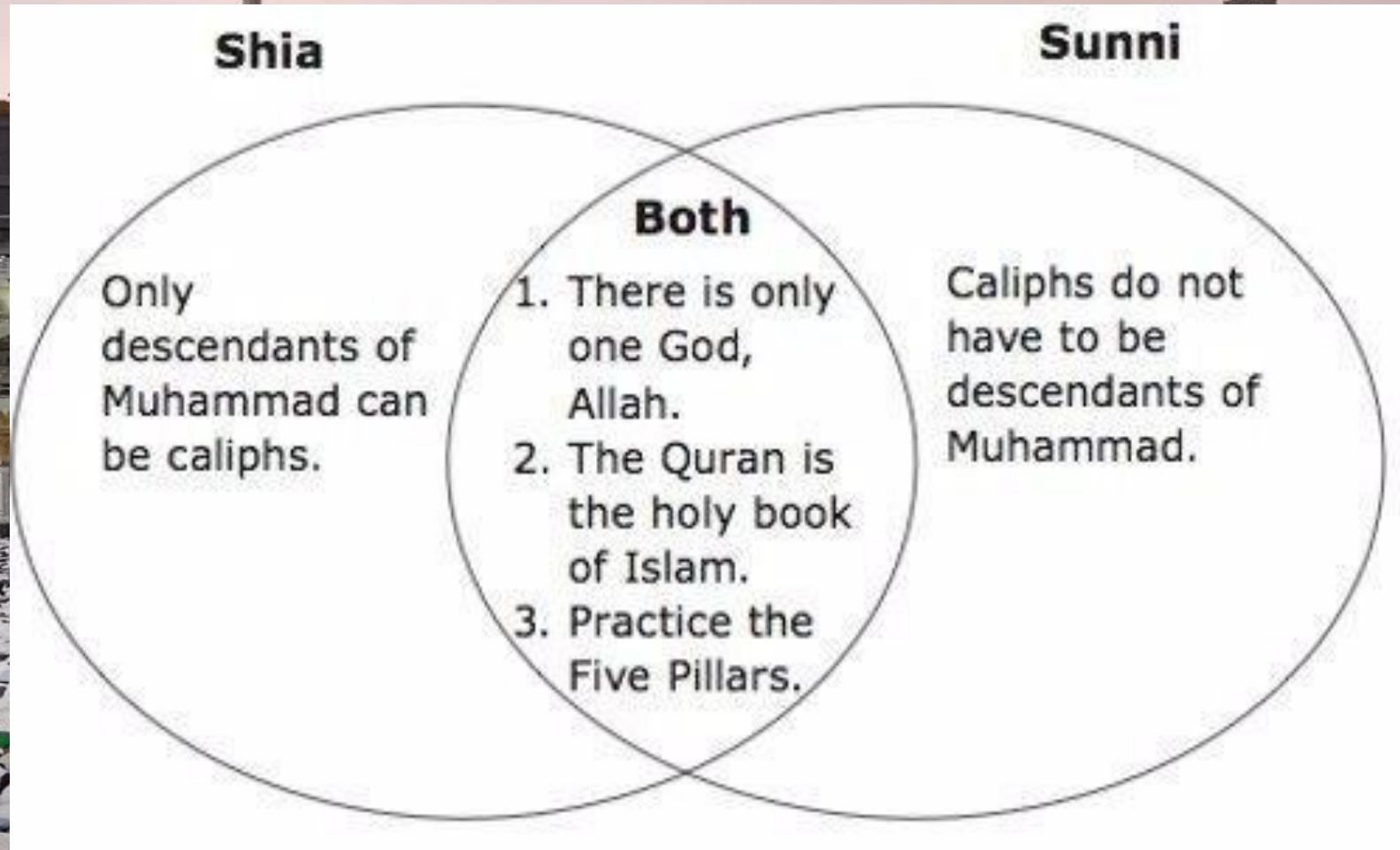


What unites most Muslims?

- Believing in and following the guidance of the Qur'an (as 100% Arabic Words of God (Allaah)- preserved for all time by God), and The Sunnah (Way of life of Islam)- shown through the words and deeds of Prophet Muhammad- carefully recorded in Hadiths or reports, and our consciences
 - The Sunnah includes:
The Five pillars of: Bearing witness to belief (Shahada), 5 daily prayers (Salah), Fasting in Ramadan (Sawm), 2.5 % of excess wealth given to the needy (Zakat), and pilgrimage to Makkah once in a life time (Hajj)
 - Islamic manners, laws of morality, regular Islamic education, Friday prayers with sermons (khutbahs), Two Eids, Weddings, Birth celebrations, and other community activities, such as educational and charitable projects and activism to promote justice and rights.
 - Defending Muslims, the oppressed and Islam, Including God's sacred places.

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Main differences amongst Muslims



<https://www.sutori.com/en/story/history-of-islam-from-570-ad-to-1258-ad--kosjWx6nWpzWArWW2DvSZ3ff>

**In 2025:
Sunni are
the
mainstream
and majority
of global
Muslims:
1,579,268,274**

**Shia are the
2nd most
numerous
group:
221,790,956**

<https://statisticsanddata.org/data/most-popular-religions-in-the-world-2025/>

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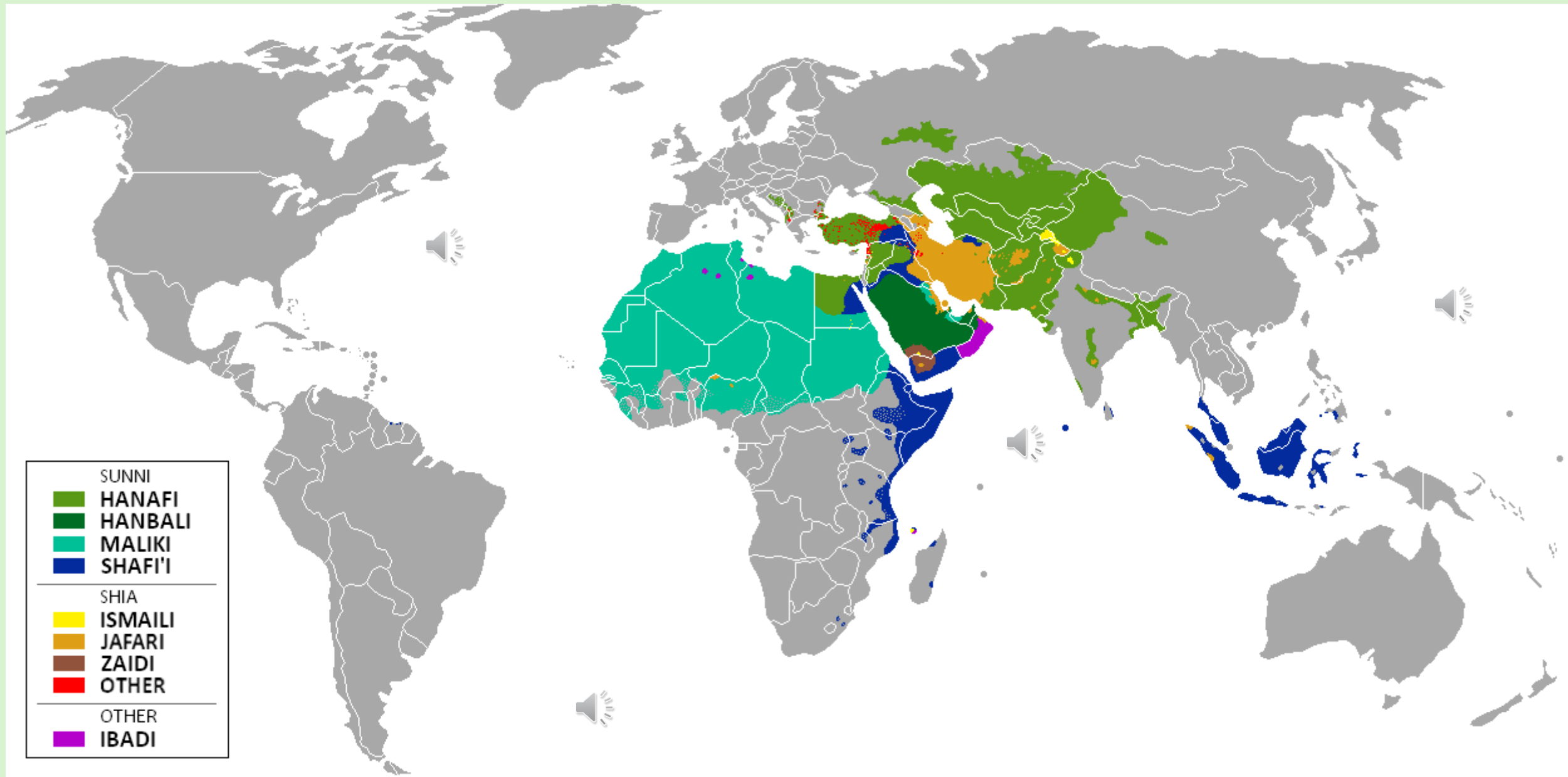
Sunni/Shia Belief Comparison Chart

	Sunni	Shi'a
Believers Called	Sunnis	Shiites, Shi'i
Meaning of Name	"well-trodden path" or "tradition"	"party" or "partisans" of Ali
Estimated Followers	940 million	120 million
% of Muslim population	90%	10%
Primary locations	Most Muslim countries	Iran, Iraq, Yemen
Belief that Muhammad designated a successor?	No	Yes
True Successor of the Prophet	Abu Bakr	Ali ibn Abu Talib
Qualifications for rule	Any qualified leader	Family of the Prophet
Historical Leaders	Caliphs	Imams
Al Mahdi	Will come in the future	Was already on earth, is currently the "hidden Iman" who will return at the end of time
Concealing Faith for Self-Protection (taqiya)	Under special circumstances only	Emphasized
Temporary Marriage	Not allowed	Still Practiced
Holy Cities	Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem	Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem, Najaf, Karbala
Major Holidays	Eid al-Adha, Eid al-Fitr	Eid al-Adha, Eid al-Fitr, Ashura
Frequency of Prayer	Five Times a Day	Five Times a Day although prayer is sometimes altered to 3 times a day by combining the morning and evening prayers together.

For more information go to:

<https://explore-islam.com/differences-between-sunni-and-shia/>

Location of main Sunni schools of thought, Shia and other schools of thought amongst the Muslims:



Local places of worship for Muslims – NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MOSQUES (all receive school groups)

Larger mosques:

- **Northampton Mosque and Islamic Centre** 72 Clare Street, Northampton, NN1 3JA (Friday Jamaat prayer @1.30pm)
- **Northampton Central Mosque**, 112-116 Abington Avenue, Northampton, NN1 4PD (Jamaat @1.30pm)
- **Al Jamatul Muslimin of Bangladesh Masjid**, 4-8 St Georges Street, Northampton, NN1 2TR (1st Jamaat @1.30pm
2nd Jamaat @2.15pm)
- **Corby Central Masjid**, 33 Stuart Road, Corby, NN17 1RL (Jamaat @1.30pm)
- **Daventry Masjid** 12 Cottesbrook Park, Daventry, NN11 8YL (Jamaat @1.30pm)
- **Masjid Al Arqam (KMA)**, 123 Headlands, Kettering, NN15 6AD (1st Jamaat @1:30pm (brothers only) 2nd Jamaat @2:15pm (brothers & sisters))
- **Islah Ul Muslimeen Mosque**, 37 Winstanley Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1JD (Jamaat @1.30pm (Brothers and Sisters))

Smaller mosques

- **Shahjalal Jame Mosque**, 35 Winstanley Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1JD (Jamaat @1.30pm)
- **Baitul Ma'mur Jame Masjid**, 41-43 Argyle Street, Northampton, NN5 5LH (1st Jamaat @1.30pm, 2nd Jamaat @2.15pm)
- **Gulzare Madina Masjid**, 1 Collingdale Road, Northampton, NN3 2TS (Jamaat @1.45pm)
- **Abington Jame Masjid**, 49 Stimpson Avenue, Northampton, NN1 4LR (Jamaat @1.30pm)

Contact details can be found online

Useful websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/https://discoverislam.co.uk/schools/> (Clear information)

<https://wamy.co.uk/dawah-material/> (many pdf leaflets on different topics in Islam)

<https://www.1001inventions.com/> (link to a website that showcases famous Muslim inventions, scientists and inventors- and exhibition)

<https://www.islamicexhibition.org/> (An interactive exhibition on Islam for schools to visit in Birmingham)

<https://www.ipci-iv.co.uk/> (The educational organization running the Islam Exhibition)

<https://www.meetyourmuslimneighbours.org/open-days-and-exhibitions> (To organize joint events)

<https://isb.org.uk/our-projects/> (To get Muslims to visit schools for presentations, Q & A etc)

<https://visitmymosque.org/visitor-guide/> (For mosque visits)

<https://understanding-islam.co.uk/key-stage-1/> (Clear information)