What is Islam?
Islam is a monotheistic religion based on the foundation that there is only one God and Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him (pbuh), as God’s messenger.

Who is Allah?
Allah is the Arabic word for God. Allah is a universal name for God and does not refer to an exclusive Islamic God. Muslims believe there is only one God, who has no partners, no gender, who is in the Angelic, Creator and behaviors at the universe. Muslims believe that God created humans for the purpose of worshipping Him. He sends messengers including Islam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammad, please be upon all of them, to help guide people in fulfilling this purpose.

Who is Muhammad (pbuh)?
Muhammad was born in Makah in 570 and was sent as a “messy to mankind” (Quran 23:20) to be an usher of laws, patterns, courage, generosity, and wisdom, who received all the rules and inspired nations across the globe. He was known as the “peaceful and kindly man” before the revolution was revealed to him. He preached for kindness, compassion, equality and philanthropy amongst allouch. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) stated “God does not look at your figures, nor your colors but He looks at your hearts (local deeds). Muslims believe that Muhammad (pbuh) is the final prophet sent after the prophets, Moses, and Jesus (may peace be upon them) to revise their teachings and complete the revelations.

Charity in Islam
Charity is at the cornerstone of the Islamic faith. It is an obligation on every Muslim who is financially capable and must give the third out of five pillars of Islam. Muslims are obligated to give 2.5% of their wealth per year to people and organization in need, and are strongly encouraged to give more.

Who are Muslims?
Muslims are followers of Islam and believe in one God and Muhammad (pbuh) as the last messenger of God. They believe in all the prophets which preceded Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) such as Adam, Jesus, Moses, etc. and the holy books they brought, in their original form, including the Torah and Bible. Muslims transcend a multitude of races, nationalities, cultures, languages, recreational backgrounds and countries across the globe. Majority of Muslims are non-Arabic (about 80%)

Who are American Muslims?
The history of Muslims in America dates back to the 14th century (“Pandora’s America,” 2005). Twenty percent of enslaved Africans were Muslims, which is likely an underestimate (Kidder, 2015; Austin, 1985). Currently, Muslims make up 1% of the US population (Pew Research, 2021) Muslims make up the second most educated faith group in the United States after Jews (Bakshi & Nyang, 2004).

Definitions:

Masjids (Mosque):
The Arabic word for mosque, which is a place of worship for Muslims.

Quran:
The word Quran literally translates as “recitation.” It is the holy book of Islam which includes the words of God revealed to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Hadith:
Arabic term that translates to “account” or “narrative.” It includes the sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Assalamu Alaikum:
A greeting Muslims use which means, “Peace be upon you.”

Hijab:
A modest dress-code Muslim adult women wear in public which includes covering the hair and body except the face and hands.

Eid:
A public holiday that Muslims celebrate at the end of Ramadan. It is a time for family, friendship, and the celebration of the victory of good over evil.

Ka’bah:
A cubical black building in Mecca, which was the first house of worship, built by Prophet Abraham and his son Ismail. Muslims across the world face the Ka’bah when praying, and visit at least once in their lifetime if they are able to.

Ramadan:
The 5th month in the Islamic calendar, where Muslims across the globe fast from food, water, and intimacy from sunrise until sunset for the entire month. It’s also the month the Quran was first revealed. It is a month of training the mind, body, and soul.

Hijj:
Islamic word for celebration or holiday. There are two major Eid Muslims celebrate: Eid Al-Fitr, celebration after the month-long fast of Ramadan and Eid Al-Adha, celebration after Muslims sacrifice their Hajj.

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