

Who are Muslims?
Siapa orang Islam?

We are!



Nasia, age 14, Jakarta, acrylic



Hi...I am Shamira. I am from Indonesia. I am 7 years old. My hobbies are painting and reading books. I have one brother. His name is Ilen. I join painting classes at Hadiprana Gallery. My teachers at Hadiprana are [Mrs.] Altri and [Mr.] Benny. Hope you like my painting.

Shamira, age 7, Jakarta, crayon



My name is Talisa Nadhifah Maharani. And you can call me Dhifa. I study at Madania International school in Parung-Bogor, 4th grade. I study English language at my school, so I will write in English now and hope you will understand me. I was born on 27 November 1995. My hobby is ballet. I studied ballet since I was 3 years old. I like ballet because it is so fun. I also really like to draw and make comics.

Dhifa, age 9, Jakarta, acrylic



My name is Billy Ramadhan. And no, I was not born during [the Islamic fasting month of] Ramadhan. Many people think that because Ramadhan is in my name, but it's not true. I don't really like holidays from school because I get bored at home. My parents like to golf and my sister is at college and not always home. But I do like to go out to the malls with my family and friends from time to time. In the picture, I am with my friend, Bilal (who is on the left). I like my drawing because I think I look rather handsome – in real life too!

Billy, age 11, Jakarta, marker



My name is Faizal. I am not yet in school. I like to draw. The white face is my younger brother and the red face is me. It is a good drawing. I like to buy food, ride my bicycle and play.

Faizal, age 6, Serang, pastels

What does it mean to be a Muslim? Apa arti menjadi Muslim bagi Anda?

As you read our individual stories, you will discover more about what it means to be Muslim for us children in Indonesia. But in general, a Muslim is a person who practices and believes in the religion of Islam. To be a Muslim you must believe that there is only one God whose name is *Allah* and accept that Islam was founded by a prophet named Muhammad.

Being Muslim is also about being a part of a Muslim family and living an Islamic way of life. This means there are certain ways a Muslim person should behave, dress and act. For example, a Muslim person is expected to eat foods that are *halal*. Halal foods are sold and marked with Arabic writing which shows they are ok to eat according to Islamic tradition. Foods and drink that are not permitted are called *haram* and examples of such foods include pork and alcohol.



My painting shows the traditional Islamic dress for Indonesian girls (on the left side) and boys (on the right side). In our tradition, we are supposed to cover our arms and legs and wear something on our heads. We usually wear these kinds of clothes on special occasions – or when we go to the mosque. But as you can see from my picture (right) with my friend, Nasia (left), we all dress in many different ways. My favorite clothes are t-shirts and jeans.

Anisah, age 14, Jakarta, acrylic



mukenah: All women and girls wear this white cloak when we pray. White represents purity.

jilbab: The *jilbab* is a headscarf that some women and girls wear. We have the choice to wear it or not.

peci: This is one example of the cap boys may wear when we go to the mosque.

baju koko: Most men and boys wear this type of shirt with a plaid *sarong* when we pray.

What are the Five Pillars of Islam?

Apa rukun Islam yang lima?

The Five Pillars of Islam are the foundation for our religion. All Muslims throughout the world believe in these Five Pillars:

- *syahadat* – declaration of faith
- *sholat* – daily prayer ritual
- *puasa* – fasting during the holy month of Ramadhan
- *zakat* – giving to charity
- *Hajj* – pilgrimage

The Five Pillars are the tools by which to be good Muslims.

SYAHADAT

The first pillar is *syahadat* (sha HA daht), the simple but important **declaration of faith** which all Muslims must believe from their heart. Here it is written in Arabic. It means: "There is one God whose name is Allah and the Prophet Muhammad is His Messenger."



SHOLAT

Sholat is our daily prayer ritual. Muslims must **pray to God five times a day** every day between dawn and dusk. We usually learn how to pray when we are very young children.

Before we pray, it is very important that we wash our hands, face, forearms, head and feet. We call this purifying ritual *wudhu*. Then we must follow these steps:

Sholat

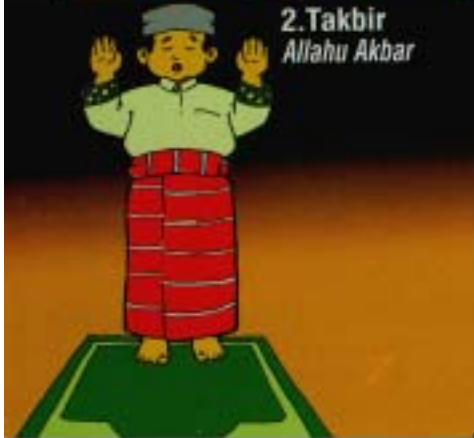


cara praktis belajar sholat

1. menghadap kiblat



2. Takbir Allahu Akbar



3. Bersedekap



5. I'tidal



Rabbana wa lakal hamdu

7. Duduk

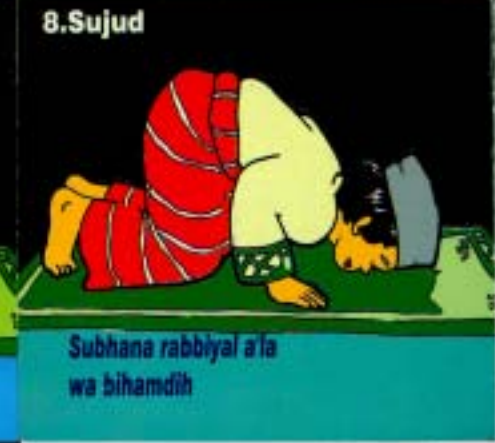


6. Sujud



Subhana rabbiyal a'la wa bihamdih

8. Sujud



Subhana rabbiyal a'la wa bihamdih

Baca Al-fatihah

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ
إِلهَ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ
أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ
صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ
غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

4. Ruku'



Subhana rabbiyal 'azhim wa bihamdih

9. Berdiri Al-fatihah





- sajadah:* This is our prayer mat. We may stand and kneel on this type of mat when we pray. It represents a clean space.
- jadwal sholat:* Sometimes you will see this prayer schedule at a school or mosque [Muslim house of worship]. We pray at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset and night. These clocks are set for prayer times in Jakarta, Indonesia this time of year.
- kiblat:* This arrow indicates the direction of the holy city of Makkah which is the direction we are to face when we pray. This arrow is often found in hotel rooms, schools, mosques, and other spaces for prayer.

PUASA

Puasa means fasting during the Islamic holy month of Ramadhan. During the month of Ramadhan, we fast from dawn to dusk which in Indonesia falls between the hours of 4:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. This means we cannot eat or drink anything for almost 14 hours during the day for a month!

What is the longest amount of time you have gone without eating or drinking anything?

We believe fasting teaches us very important lessons. When we are hungry or thirsty we try to practice self-control over temptation, self-discipline and we are reminded to care for others. It is also important not to be dishonest, break promises or gossip while fasting.

ZAKAT

The fourth pillar is *zakat* (ZAH kaht) or **giving to charity**. As Muslims, we try to be charitable and give money or rice to those in need. This action creates a sense of community and helps prevent arrogance. It is also important for Muslims to be hospitable and help those who travel, so you will be welcome if you decide to visit us in Indonesia!

Here is a sample of our Indonesian money. It is called *rupiah* (ruh PEE ah). Right now about 9,300 rupiah equals \$1.00 in the United States. With 9,300 rupiah in Indonesia, you could buy three cans of Coca-Cola or half of a McDonald's Big Mac.

Can you figure out how much the Indonesian money displayed here is worth in United States dollars?

(Answer: 27,000 rupiah = about US\$3.00)



HAJJ

The fifth pillar is *Hajj*, the annual pilgrimage to Makkah. Makkah (sometimes spelled "Mecca") is a city located in Saudi Arabia. It is a holy city for Muslims because the Prophet Muhammad was born there in the year 570 A.D. Muslims who are physically and financially able try to visit Makkah and go on Hajj at least once in their lifetime.

Here you will see a picture of the *Kabah* which is the starting and finishing point of Hajj. During the Hajj, all Muslims wear simple white clothing as a symbol of Muslim unity and equality.

