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# Hajj Reading Comprehension

Read the text below very carefully and then answer the questions.

*Dear Diary,*

*Wow! What a day! I can't believe I'm finally here in Mecca! After what feels like a lifetime of saving up and finding the right opportunity to come... and I'm here! It feels so special to be able to complete the fifth pillar of my religion.*

*Our flight was very hot but very exciting. We were all Muslims together, all going for the same purpose so we were all very excited. Going into the state of Ihram was quite a milestone. When we all put on our white robes, and said our first prayers, it felt like Hajj properly for the first time!*

*The first thing we did was Tawaf; walking around the Kab'ah seven times. The Kab'ah was much bigger than I thought it would be. I took this picture while I was there...*



*When we were walking round seven times, I felt great because I was following out Allah's instructions from the Qur'an and because I felt really connected with everyone else who was doing the same thing.*

*Next, I went and drank the water from the Zamzam well. It tasted very sweet for some reason, and felt really important because I knew this was the well that was created to stop Ishmael from dying of thirst in the story in the Qur'an!*

*Lastly today, we all did the walk between the two hills. This remembers the same story in the Qur'an, where Hagar runs between the mountains trying to find water for her son, Ishmael. We walked up and down 7 times between the two hills. It felt amazing to be retracing Hagar's exact steps!*

*I'm so tired! So much walking today! But it is so worth it. This is a once in a lifetime experience (literally!) Goodnight diary – I will write again tomorrow if I have any energy left!*

**Aliyah xx**

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## Hajj Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Why is Aliyah so excited to be in Mecca?
2. What did she have to do beforehand in order to begin Hajj?
3. What did Aliyah find was so special about the flight to Mecca?
4. What clothes were worn for the first prayers?
5. What was the first thing Aliyah did in Mecca?
6. What surprised Aliya about the Kab'ah?
7. How did the event at the Kab'ah help Aliyah feel connected with all the other Muslims?
8. What was the original story of the Zamzam well in the Qu'ran?
9. Whose steps did Aliyah retrace when she ran 7 times between the hills?
10. How does Aliyah feel at the end of the day, after writing her diary?

## Hajj Reading Comprehension Questions - ANSWERS

1. Why is Aliyah so excited to be in Mecca?

*It feels so special to be able to complete the fifth pillar of my religion.*

2. What did she have to do to beforehand in order to begin Hajj?

*Save money and find the right opportunity to go.*

3. What did Aliyah find was so special about the flight to Mecca?

*We were all Muslims together, all going for the same purpose so we were all very excited.*

4. What clothes were worn for the first prayers?

*White robes.*

5. What was the first thing Aliyah did in Mecca?

*The first thing we did was Tawaf; walking around the Kab'ah seven times.*

6. What surprised Aliya about the Kab'ah?

*How big it was.*

7. How did the event at the Kab'ah help Aliyah feel connected with all the other Muslims?

*I felt great because I was following out Allah's instructions from the Qur'an and because I felt really connected with everyone else who was doing the same thing.*

8. What was the original story of the Zamzam well in the Qu'ran?

*This was the well that was created to stop Ishmael from dying of thirst in the story in the Qur'an!*

9. Whose steps did Aliyah retrace when she ran 7 times between the hills?

*Hagar.*

10. How does Aliyah feel at the end of the day, after writing her diary?

*Tired/no energy.*