Journey to Allah ﷻ

Millions of Muslims around the world are preparing for HAJJ (حَج) or PILGRIMAGE. It is one of the most beloved times of the year for Muslims. Hajj is the LAST PLLAR of Islam and every Muslim must do their best to go to Hajj at least once in their life time. As long as you are healthy and can afford it, you should have the intention of going to Hajj.

Hajj takes place during the last month of the Islamic calendar called, DHUL-HIJJA (ذو الحجة). Muslims all over the world will travel to MAKKAH (مَكة) to visit the KA'ABAH (كَعبَة). The religious rituals of Hajj are performed between the 8th and 12th of Dhul-Hijja. Hajj takes a total of five days to complete.

> And ˹remember˺ when We assigned to Ibrahim the site of the House, ˹saying˺, Do not associate anything with Me ˹in worship˺ and purify My House for those who circle ˹the Ka'abah˺, stand ˹in prayer˺, and bow and prostrate themselves. And call ˹all˺ people to the Hajj [pilgrimage]; they will come to you on foot on every lean camel; they will come from every distant path, so they may obtain the benefits ˹in store˺ for them and pronounce the Name of God on appointed days…
>
> {Surah 22, Aya 26-29}

Hajj is the CALL FROM ALLAH ﷻ to all Muslims around the world. As Muslims we need to make the journey to His "House" where we will see many other Muslims from all over the world. Unfortunately, some people delay answering this call from Allah ﷻ even when they can afford it, which we should avoid doing. None of us know how long we will live for, so it is best to perform Hajj once we are adults as early in our lives as we can.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

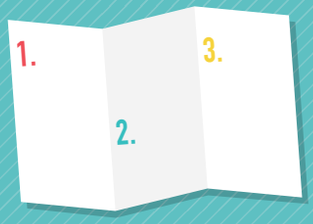
> Whoever performs Hajj for Allah ﷻ, …. and he stays away from sin, then his previous sins will be forgiven
>
> {Sunan at-Tirmidhi}

FACTS ABOUT HAJJ

- There are five pillars in Islam and Hajj is the fifth pillar
- Performing Hajj is mandatory for all Muslim adults at least once in their life time (unless they are not healthy or cannot afford it)
- Travelling and performing Hajj these days are extremely expensive. Plan and start saving early in your life if you want to go to Hajj
- Over three million Muslims went to Hajj in 2016 and the number is expected to grow this year
- During Hajj men and women pray side by side
- Men are required to wrap themselves in two pieces of white sheet called the Ihram and have to either shave or cut their hair very short afterwards

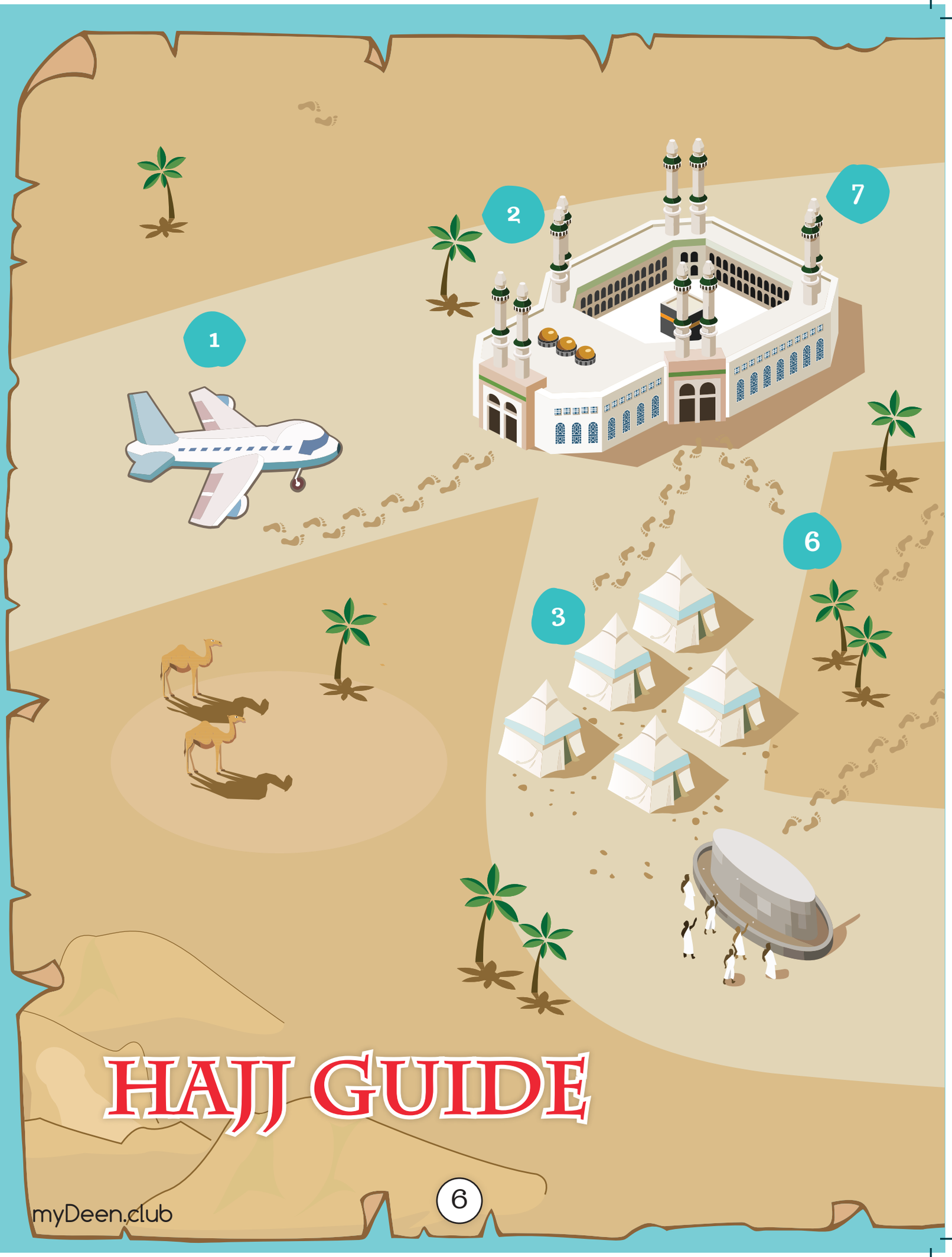
THE SYMBOL OF UNITY

Unity means to be united and to stand together as a whole. During Hajj, there is no difference between the rich and the poor, the kings and the servants, or the Arabs and the non-Arabs. Muslims come from all over the world from places such as China, Australia, South America and Africa to perform Hajj. These people are all from different races, speak different languages and have different skin colours, but during Hajj EVERYONE IS EQUAL and the only difference among them is how sincere is their act of worship in the sight of Allah ﷻ. This is a symbol of Unity that should be present throughout our Muslim Ummah.

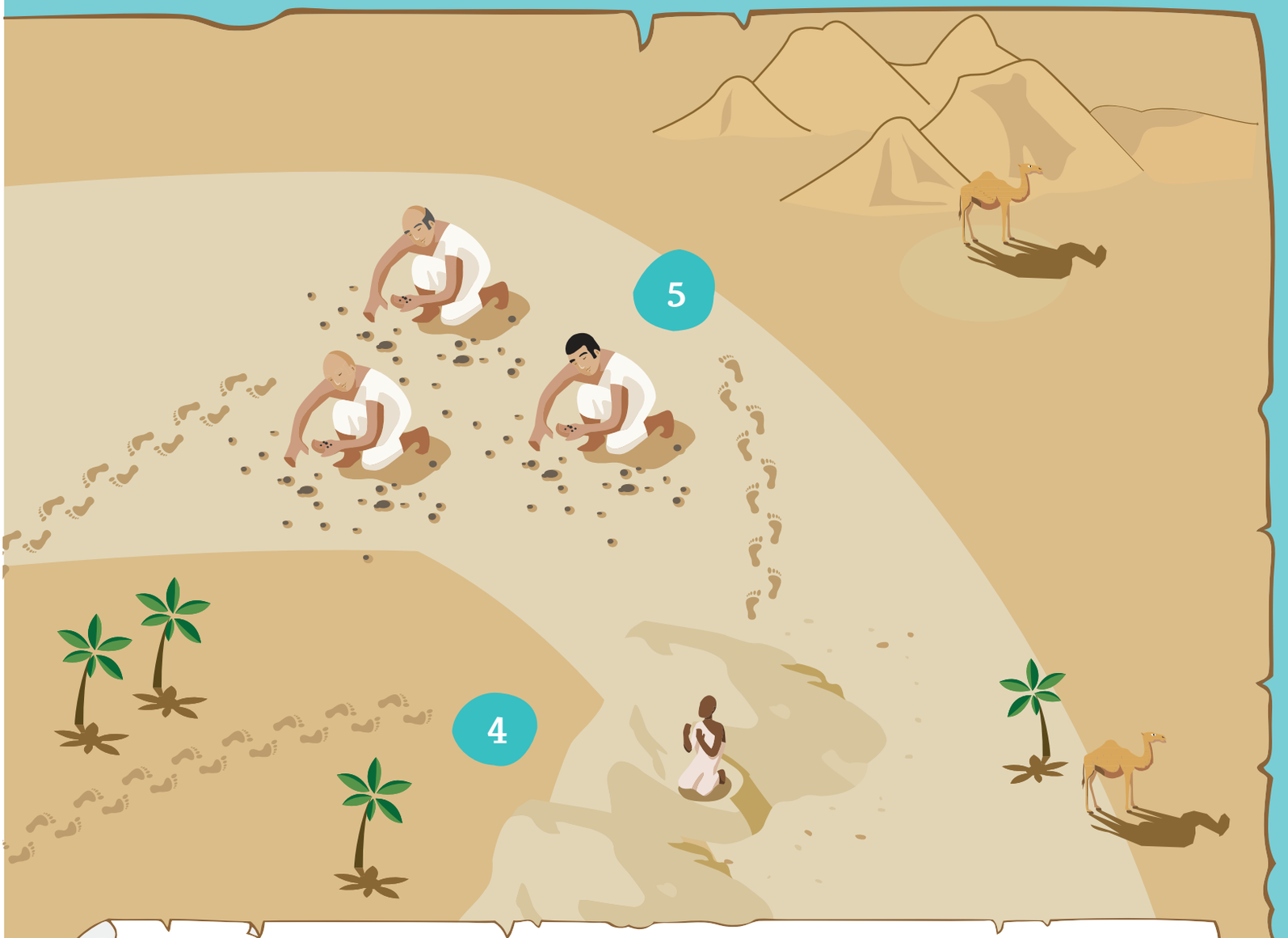


HAJJ GUIDE

On the next two pages, we have included a guide for Hajj. It shows you all the steps that must be completed when performing Hajj. Go through the Hajj Guide and try to memorize some of the steps



HAJJ GUIDE



Step 1: Arrive in Makkah and get ready for Hajj.

Step 2: Go around the Ka'abah 7 times, which is called "Tawaf Al Qudoom" Walk up and down the hills of Safa' and Marwa 7 times.

Step 3: Move to Mina where you will pray and read Qur'an

Step 4: Stop at Arafah and make lots of Dua!

Step 5: Move to Muzdalifah and get ready for the "Stoning" ceremony.

Step 6: Go back to Mina, which will be on the day of Eid-ul-Adha. Throw 7 stones at the Major "Jamaraat"

Step 7: Go back to the Ka'abah and walk around 7 times again. Drink Zam Zam water then get ready to go home!

These 7 steps of Hajj take place over 5 days during Dhul-Hijja.

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HARD

People come from all over around the world to perform Hajj. Help these 4 people find their way to the Ka'abah

The Best Days of the Year

Do you know what you can do during the 8th to the 12th of Dhul-Hijja if you are not going to Hajj? Are you supposed to just watch all the other Muslims performing their Hajj?

The best 10 DAYS of the year are the first 10 days of Dhul-Hijja in the Islamic Calendar. There are no other days that are better or come close to them in worship. Strive to do your best during these days for they only come once a year!

THINK

What can you do?

There are roughly 3 million Muslims going to Hajj this year, but that is only %0.1 of our whole Ummah (اُمَّة). The rest of us, even though we are physically not in Makkah, our hearts are with the Hujjaj (pilgrims). We are thinking about them, praying for them and hoping to be like in their place one day in sha Allah. However, just because we are not there does not mean we can not benefit during these blessed days. Islam teaches us that during the days of Hajj, Muslims around the world can also earn many goods deeds for different kinds of worships.

During the first 10 days of Dhul-Hijja, you can fast all those days except the last day (because it's Eid). Make sure you pray on time and do extra prayers. You can also make lots of Du'aa as well as say lots of Dhikr (remembrance of Allah ﷻ) as much as you can. Any righteous deeds during these days are multiplied and have more rewards. so everyday between Fajr and Maghreb, do your best to live the pririt of Hajj wherever you are. The more time you spend in acts of worship during these blessed days, the more rewards you will gain.

The next page has a tracking sheet for you to maximize your worship during the first 10 days of Dhul-Hijja. We made a list of different acts of worship you can do. Try your best to complete as much of the tracking sheet as possible so that you can reap the great rewards during these special days!

Tracking Sheet: Work with your parents to help you with the checklist. Put a checkmark beside each act of worship that you complete.

ACTIVITIES:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Wake up for **Fajr** on Time										H
Fast the whole/half a day										A
Pray all your 5 prayers										P
Read 1-2 pages of **Qur'an**										P
Make Du'aa to Allah ﷻ										Y
Dhikr: **Subhan'Allah** (100x)										
Dhikr: **Alhamdulillah** (100x)										E
Dhikr: **Allahu Akbar** (100x)										I
Give Chairty (even a smile counts)										D

The Day of Arafah

Laylatul Qadr (which is the night of Power) is the BEST NIGHT in the whole month of Ramadan, while the day of Arafah is the BEST DAY of the all the days in the year and it happens on the 9th of Dhul-Hijja. Allah ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

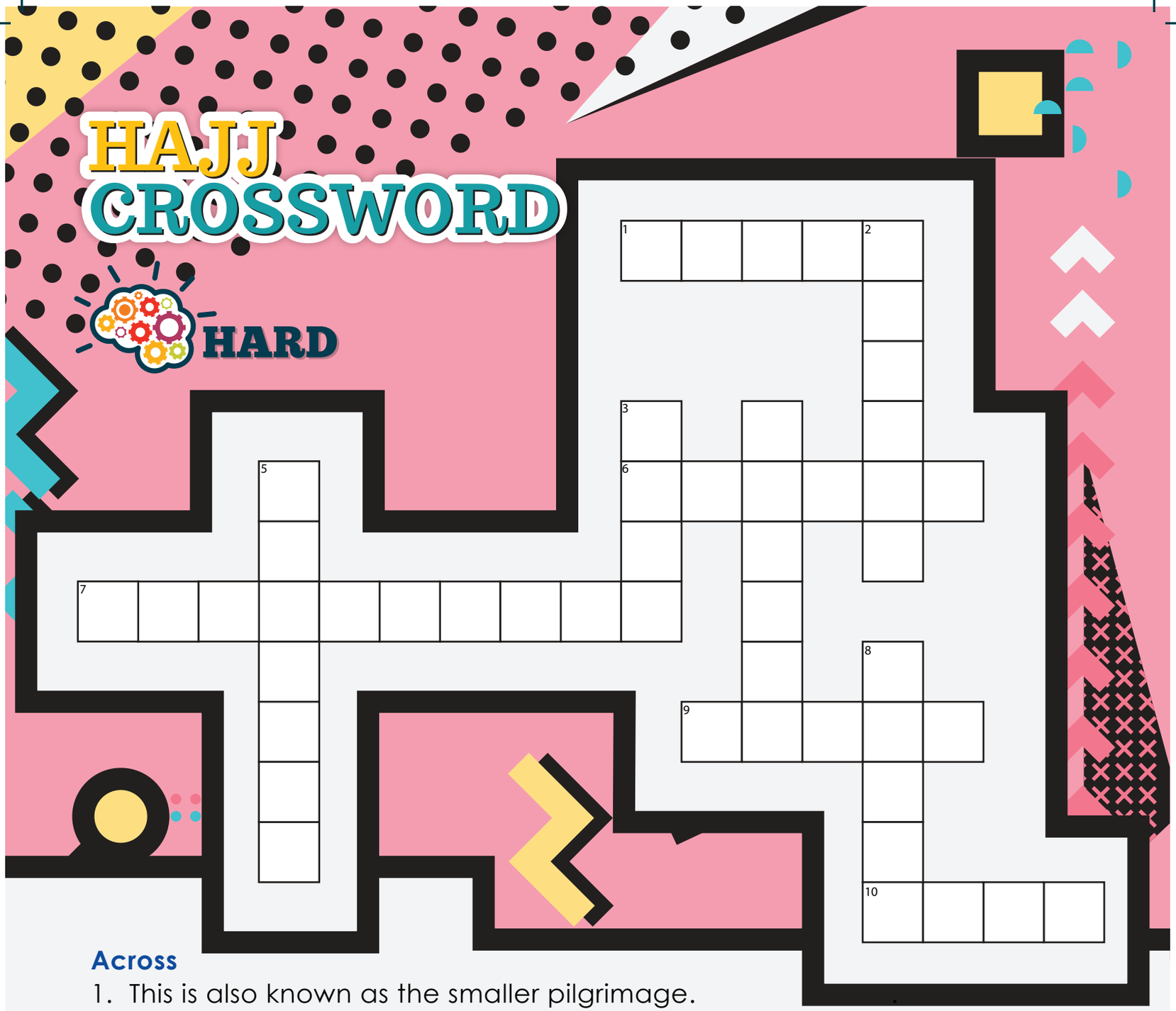
> This day I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion
> {Surah 5, Ayah 3}

Umar ibn Al-Khattab ؓ said that the day this verse was revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was on the day of Arafah. This shows how important this day is. Many scholars have said that this is the best day in Islam and we should be at our best on this day. At the very least, we should fast on this day because Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "Fast the Day of Arafah, for indeed I anticipate that Allah will forgive the sins of the year after it, and the year before it" {Sunan at-Tirmidhi}.

The Day of Arafah happens on the 9th day of Dhul-Hijja, one day before Eid-al-Adha. Plan to fast that day or even half the day, then celebrate Eid the following day with all the other Muslims around the world!

HAJJ CROSSWORD

HARD



Across

1. This is also known as the smaller pilgrimage.
6. The day of _____ is known as the best day of the year.
7. The best 10 days of the year are the first 10 days of _____ .
9. During Hajj, men are required to wrap themselves in two pieces of clothing called _____ .
10. Hajj takes a total of _____ days to complete the whole ritual.

Down

2. On Page 10, this Arabic word was used to describe the pilgrims during Hajj.
3. One of the two hills around the Ka'abah that people walk up and down 7 times during Hajj.
4. The city where the Ka'abah is located, in Saudi Arabia.
5. Over 3 _____ people will go to Hajj this year, masha'Allah.
8. _____ is the Arabic word for the circular movement around the Ka'abah.