

Name:

Day One

Being a Muslim in Maryland

Part 1: Silent read

➔ Can Muslims follow their religion in suburban Maryland? Read silently.

Hakeem Kolo’s family lives in Maryland now, but they are originally from Nigeria. Hakeem’s new hometown includes families who come from all over the world. The Kolos attend a local mosque regularly to pray. There, they join Muslims from other West African countries, like Ivory Coast and Senegal. “It feels like back home,” Hakeem says. His middle school in Montgomery County also has an international mix of students. Many are Muslim, like Hakeem, but some follow different religious customs.

In reality, there are many ways to be Muslim, just as there are many ways to be Christian, Jewish, or atheist. Worldwide, there are over a billion Muslims. It is the second largest world religion, after Christianity. A Muslim follows the religion of Islam. Like Christians and Jews, Muslims believe there is only one god. They call him “Allah,” the Arabic word for god.

Muslim leaders asked Montgomery County schools to recognize the Muslim holiday, Eid. Eid marks the end of a month-long period of fasting and prayer. The month of fasting is called Ramadan. Muslim families attend services on Eid and then head home for a special feast. Because schools close for Christian and Jewish holidays, Muslim parents wanted school closed on their one main holiday. It felt unfair for Muslim students to be penalized for missing school.

In 2015, the school board responded to Muslim leaders’ requests. They voted to hold a teacher work day on Eid, so students wouldn’t have to come to school. Muslim families were pleased with this outcome.



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// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What do Muslims believe?

How do Muslims celebrate Eid?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Hakeem Kolo’s family lives in Maryland now, / but they are originally from Nigeria. // Hakeem’s new hometown includes families / who come from all over the world. // The Kolos attend a local mosque regularly / to pray. // There, / they join Muslims from other West African countries, / like Ivory Coast / and Senegal. // “It feels like back home,” / Hakeem says. // His middle school in Montgomery County / also has an international mix of students. // Many are Muslim, / like Hakeem, / but some follow different religious customs. //

In reality, / there are many ways to be Muslim, / just as there are many ways to be Christian, / Jewish, / or atheist. // Worldwide, / there are over a billion Muslims. // It is the second largest world religion, / after Christianity. // A Muslim follows the religion of Islam. // Like Christians and Jews, / Muslims believe there is only one god. // They call him “Allah,” / the Arabic word for god. //

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In 2015, / the school board responded to Muslim leaders’ requests. // They voted / to hold a teacher work day on Eid, / so students wouldn’t have to come to school. // Muslim families were pleased with this outcome. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.