The Hajj: Journey to Mecca
Background on the Hajj: The Five Pillars of Islam

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The Hajj is the annual pilgrimage to Makkah (Mecca) symbolizing the essential concepts of Islam. Muslims who are physically and financially able make the trip at least once in their lifetime.

Student Directions:
Go to the Council on Islamic Education at [http://www.cie.org/ItemDetail.aspx?id=N&m_id=52&item_id=115&cat_id=104](http://www.cie.org/ItemDetail.aspx?id=N&m_id=52&item_id=115&cat_id=104) and review the “Overview,” “Abraham,” and “the Hajj” links. Work with a partner to answer the following questions:

1. What is the Hajj and why is it taken?
2. How often must a Muslim perform the Hajj?
3. What happens in the following ceremonies and what does each symbolize?
   - Entering a state of ihram
   - The tawaf
   - The sa’i
   - The visit to the plain of Arafat
   - Throwing pebbles at a stone pillar
   - The animal sacrifice
4. How do these rituals compare with rituals from the events you discussed in the opening activity? How are they different?