

## RAMADAN

Ramadan is the name of the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. The Muslim calendar is a lunar calendar, which means that the months begin and end with a crescent moon.

It is during the ninth month that Muslims observe the Fast of Ramadan. A *fast* is a kind of diet which involves no eating or drinking. For the entire month, Muslims fast during the daylight hours. In the evening, they eat meals and visit with friends and family. They are allowed to eat as much as they want from sunset until dawn, and many families gather to have feasts. Although it's not mandatory for young children to fast, many start to observe the Fast of Ramadan when they are as young as six or seven.

Ramadan is a time of worship and contemplation. It is a time to strengthen family and community ties. During this time, Muslims also make a special effort to be better people. They try to be exceptionally nice to others, and do as many good deeds as they can.

At the end of Ramadan there is a big celebration called Eid el Fitr. Children look forward to this. They receive money and presents.

*Write about your experiences during Ramadan, or compare Ramadan to another holiday.*

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