Why do Jews, Christians, and Muslims all claim the same Holy Land, Palestine?

By: Shiv Bhuvane, Jeremy Plotkkin, Julia Eigner and Alissa Green
Why Jews claim the land

- When they were led out of slavery from Egypt with Moses and Palestine was the land they crossed.
- Abraham was a Palestinian when he presented the idea of a monotheistic religion.
- The international community granted political sovereignty in Palestine to the Jews.
Judaism in Jerusalem

This is the Western Wall in Jerusalem
Why the Muslims Claim the Land

♦ Arabs conquered Palestine in the 7th century and was ruled by Muslim dynasties until 1516.
♦ Muslim Arabs captured Jerusalem in 638 and it has a long history of Muslim rule.
Why the Christians Claim the Land

- It was the land where Jesus Christ was born, lived, and died.
- Jesus traveled with his disciples to Jerusalem to observe Passover.
- It was the location of the Last Supper.
- Jesus was crucified just outside the city, at Golgotha.
Story of the Ka’ba

- Built before humans by Adam and thought to be the first building on Earth.
- Rebuilt by Abraham and son Ishmael.
- During Muhammad’s lifetime it may have held up to 360 people.
- In 630, Muhammad cleansed it and it has been empty ever since except for lamps.
- One of the five pillars in Islam requires Muslims to perform the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca in lifetime and walk around the Ka’ba.
- Face Ka’ba to prayer
Physical Features

- A black, cube-like structure in center of Mecca.
- There is a mosque around it.
- Most sacred site in Mecca.
- During Muhammad’s time about 15 feet tall.
- Rebuilt to be about 43 feet tall.
- Covered by a black silk and gold curtain known as the kiswah.
- There is a gold band that runs around it with Qur'an text.
- Inside it there is marble and limestone floor.
Ka’ba
What Islam’s believes of the Ka’ba

- Traditional belief that it was built by Abraham and Ishmael-confirmed by the Koran
- For Muslims, the Ka’ba is the “House of God”, “Cube” where the divine touches the mundane (commonplace)
- Muslims pray toward the Ka’ba wherever they are in the world, rather than facing any direction
- Muslims do not worship the Ka’ba and it environs-it serves as a focal and unifying point among the people
- During the annual pilgrimage of Hajj, Muslims walk around the Ka’ba in a counter-clockwise direction-this is believed because it demonstrates the unity of the believers in the worship of one God
The Koran says that the Ka’ba was first built to act as a place for humanity to worship Allah.

The Qibla is the direction Muslims *salat* or pray to.

It is believed to have been built directly under an equivalent Ka'ba in heaven.
The best PowerPoint ever made (about Mecca)!

Ashley, Emily, Jaz
What do Muslims do?

- Pray to Allah (God)
- Pray facing Mecca
- Made a holy voyage to Mecca
- Voyage called the Hajj
- They face the Ka’ba or a small stone building containing the Black Stone
- The Black Stone is believed to be sent from heaven
What do Muslims believe?

- Allah is God
- The Black Stone was sent from heaven from Allah
- You should pray 5 times a day
- Saudi Arabia was the birth place of Mohammed
- These who opposed Mohammed made him flee to Medina
- He later returned to Mecca where he died
The Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca)
Everyone wears a white robe called *Ihram* so no one can tell who is poor or rich. “The garb marks a transition to sacred space and time and reminds pilgrims of their simple equality before God.”

This quest is required for all Muslims that have proper health and financial resources and not to forget about family responsibilities.
Pilgrimage facilities have dramatically increased over the years and annual crowds are now numbering over 2 million.
Ramadan
The Islamic Holy Month
Ramadan = “High Summer”

- Fast from sunrise to sunset
- Read section of Koran for each day of month
• Rhythm of life slows drastically
• Refrain from sensual pleasure and negative attitudes/complaining
• New moon = Feast of Fastbreaking ('Id al-Fitr)

<table>
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<th>CE / AD</th>
<th>AH</th>
<th>First day</th>
<th>Last day</th>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1426</td>
<td>4 October</td>
<td>2 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
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<td>1430</td>
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<td>11 August</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>1436</td>
<td>18 June</td>
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Ramadan dates between 2005 and 2015
Muslim Dietary Customs and Rituals

By: Madison Shoemaker, Blake Oberfeld, & Jamie Spitz
Muslims are forbidden to eat certain foods.

- Included in this category are pork, blood, foods cooked with or prepared with pork fat (such as doughnuts or other fried foods), and scavenger animals.
- Muslims are also not allowed to drink intoxicated beverages.
- Unlike Orthodox Jews, Muslims do not need to separate between dairy and meat, but they must avoid pork.
- Some meat is only acceptable if the animal has been ritually slaughtered.

*Halal* is the Islam term for all permitted foods. Those foods that are prohibited, such as pork and birds of prey, are known as *Haram*, while the foods that are questionable for consumption are known as *Mashbooh*. Muslims eat to preserve their good health, and overindulgence or the use of stimulants such as tea, coffee, or alcohol are discouraged. Fasting is practiced regularly on Mondays and Thursdays, and more often for six days during Shawwal (the tenth month of the Islamic year) and for the entire month of Ramadan (the ninth month). Fasting on these occasions includes abstention from all food and drink from sunrise to sunset.
In the Muslim faith, one must ritually slaughter an animal before eating it. The ritual begins by declaring the intention to perform the act religiously. After saying the *basmallah* (in the name of God---without the names Compassionate and Merciful) and the *takbir* (meaning God is supreme), the butcher severs the jugular with a single blade stroke.

The butcher must drain as much blood as possible. This symbolizes the life force.

Muslims consider certain foods traditional for special occasions, all depending on the day/holiday and who is coming over.
Function of Muslim Rules

- The functions of Muslim dietary customs and rituals are to uphold the original practices of the religion.

Comparisons

- With Judaism: The Orthodox Jewish peoples observance of keeping kosher has many parallels to the diets of Muslims.
- With Christianity: Some Christians observe lent and give up a type of food and sometimes certain meats for a period time. This is similar to the Islam observance of Ramadan.
- Also with all three religions, diets can also be altered by a holy day of fasting or etc.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of religion</th>
<th>Practice or restriction</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buddhism</strong></td>
<td>• Refrain from meat, vegetarian diet is desirable • Moderation in all foods • Fasting required of monks</td>
<td>• Natural foods of the earth are considered most pure • Monks avoid all solid food after noon</td>
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<td><strong>Hinduism</strong></td>
<td>• Beef prohibited • All other meat and fish restricted or avoided • Alcohol avoided • Numerous fasting days</td>
<td>• Cow is sacred and can’t be eaten, but products of the &quot;sacred&quot; cow are pure and desirable • Fasting promotes spiritual growth</td>
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<td><strong>Islam</strong></td>
<td>• Pork and certain birds prohibited • Alcohol prohibited • Coffee/ tea/ stimulants avoided • Fasting from all food and drink during specific periods</td>
<td>• Eating is for good health • Failure to eat correctly minimizes spiritual awareness • Fasting has a cleansing effect of evil elements</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Judaism</strong></td>
<td>• Pork and shellfish prohibited • Meat and dairy at same meal prohibited • Leavened food restricted • Fasting practiced</td>
<td>• Land animals that do not have cloven hooves and that do not chew their cud are forbidden as unclean (e.g., hare, pig, camel) • Kosher process is based upon the Torah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mormonism</strong></td>
<td>• Alcohol and beverages containing caffeine prohibited • Moderation in all foods • Fasting practiced</td>
<td>• Caffeine is addictive and leads to poor physical and emotional health • Fasting is the discipline of self-control and honoring to God</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Protestants</strong></td>
<td>• Few restrictions of food or fasting observations • Moderation in eating, drinking, and exercise is promoted</td>
<td>• God made all animal and natural products for humans’ enjoyment • Gluttony and drunkenness are sins to be controlled</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Roman Catholicism</strong></td>
<td>• Meat restricted on certain days • Fasting practiced</td>
<td>• Restrictions are consistent with specified days of the church year</td>
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And that’s all about Muslim Dietary Customs and Rituals!

--- no literally!
Sunni and Shi'i Muslims

By: Morgan, Sam, and Wade

Period 5
90% of the world’s Muslims are Sunni.

Believe that that caliphs are descendents of Muhammad.

Believe that only heirs of the first four caliphs are legitimate religious leaders.

Even though they believe this, since 1258 there has not been a Muslim leader that has held the prominence that Muhammad did.
Shi'i Muslims

- 2nd largest denomination of Islam behind Sunni
- Split between two different branches: Sevener Shi'ites and Twelver Shi'ites
- Believe that the family of Muhammad are the only true leaders
- Believe the legitimate successor is called imam
The main difference between the two denominations is that Shi’ites believe that a universal ruler of Islam must be a descendant of Muhammad. Sunni’s believe that the caliph (universal leader) doesn’t have to be related to Muhammad.
Are Muslim women required to veil their faces?

By: Arianne Rick, Becca Ingwers, and Chloe Theobald
Why they wear them:

- The Koran does not openly say that Muslim women MUST veil themselves. It simply tells them to dress modestly.
- However, there is an ambiguous text in the Koran that states “they should draw their veils over their bosoms…” (Koran 24:31), which has caused some Muslim’s to interpret that a women’s head along with her upper body should be covered.
Types of veils:

- Some veils are drawn across the lower face from side to side, some cover the face completely, and others are made of different textures with slits cut at eye level.
- Majority of Muslim women, however, opt for a hijab, which is a head scarf that simply covers all of their hair.
Types of veils (continued)

• Some Muslim women also choose to wear a jijab, which is a flowing gown that extends down to the ankles, promoting modest clothing.
What about immigrants?

• Muslim immigrants who go to different parts of the world, such as Europe or the United States, usually choose to continue to wear their homeland styles.
What about immigrants? (continued):

- There are two reasons why Muslim women say they continue to use their fuller coverage clothing.
  1. They seek an explicit symbolic connection with their Islamic practice.
  2. They want to make a statement of personal freedom from the general exploitation of women that they experience in society.
Quick Fact!

• While the veiling of the face has caused controversy in many places, very recently, France made it illegal for Muslim women to veil their faces within the country. Wearing a face-covering veil in France now could result in a fine or worse.
Jihad

By: Shannon, Megan, David, and Scott
Definition and Interpretation

- Jihad is an Arabic word that means “to struggle or to exert oneself.”
Response from people

- In western culture: Islam is often looked upon as a "extremist", "terrorist", or "fundamental" religion.

- In Islam: Jihad is part of the religion of Islam.