



## The Islamic Calendar

In the past, Muslims would name each year after a major event that took place in it. For example, the year in which Abraha and his army came with their elephants to destroy the Ka'bah was known as the year of the elephants. People used to say: "This event took place so many years before the year of the elephants and that event took place so many years after the year of the elephants." Later on during the khilaafat of Hadhrat Umar (radiyallahu anhu), there was a need to have one standard Islamic calendar. The Sahaabah (radiyallahu anhum) agreed that the hijrah will be the starting point. Till today we use the hijri calendar.

### What is Hijrah?

When the kuffaar of Makkah were troubling the Muslims and not allowing them to practice Islam freely, Allah Ta'ala commanded Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) to make hijrah (move) from Makkah Mukarramah to Madinah Munawwarah.

Hadhrat Abu-Bakr (radiyallahu anhu) accompanied Nabi (sallallahu alayhi

1. Muharram	مُحَرَّمٌ
2. Safar	صَفَرٌ
3. Rabee'ul Awwal	رَبِيعُ الْأَوَّلِ
4. Rabee'ul Aakhir	رَبِيعُ الْآخِرِ
5. Jumaadal Ulaa	جُمَادَى الْأُولَى
6. Jumaadal Ukhraa	جُمَادَى الْآخِرَى
7. Rajab	رَجَبٌ
8. Sha'baan	شَعْبَانٌ
9. Ramadhaan	رَمَضَانٌ
10. Shawwaal	شَوَّالٌ
11. Zul Qa'dah	ذُو الْقَعْدَةَ
12. Zul Hijjah	ذُو الْحِجَّةَ

wasallam) on this very special journey. The people of Madinah Shareef were overjoyed and welcomed Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) with open arms.

In Madinah Shareef the Muslims practiced Islam freely. As a result, their numbers increased and Islam grew stronger.

### *Islamic Year*

There are 12 months in the Islamic year. The first month is Muharram and the last month is zul- Hijjah. The Islamic calendar is also known as the lunar calendar, because it works with the movement of the moon in the sky. On the 29th of every month, we search for the new moon. When the crescent (new moon) is seen, the next month starts. Every month is either 29 or 30 days.

## **Crossword Puzzle**

Circle the Islamic Months of the year. Remember there are 12. Let us see if you can find them.



### *Importance of the Islamic Calendar in our Lives*

As Muslims, the Islamic calendar plays an important role in our lives. Celebrations such as Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha; as well as Ibaadaat like fasting, zakaat and haj all depend on the lunar calendar. Even significant events such as Laylatul Baraa'ah and Aashura work with the Islamic date. Therefore, it is important for us to learn our Islamic months, know our Islamic dates and also use the Islamic date in our day to day lives. This will show our love for Islam. May Allah Ta'ala grant us love for Islam and everything linked to deen. Aameen.

## **Four Special Months**

**Zul Qa'dah**

**Zul Hijjah**

**Muharram**

**Rajab**



**Let us try and find out our Islamic date of Birth.**