

What is Eid

Based on an article written

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What is Eid and how do Muslims celebrate it? questions answered

?What is Eid

Eid literally means a “festival” or “feast” in Arabic. There are two major eids in the Islamic calendar per year Eid al-Fitr earlier in the year .and Eid al-Adha later

Eid al-Fitr is a three-day-long festival when compared to Eid al-Adha, which is four-days-long and is known as the “Greater Eid” in most arab cultures

?Why is Eid celebrated twice a year

The two Eids recognize, celebrate and recall two distinct events that are significant to the .story of Islam

Eid al-Fitr means “the feast of breaking the fast.” The fast, in this instance, is Ramadan, which recalls the revealing of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and requires Muslims to fast from sunrise to sundown for a month So Muslims are celebrating the end of this holy month

The other festival, Eid al-Adha, is the “feast of the sacrifice.” It comes at the end of the Hajj, an annual pilgrimage by millions of Muslims to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia that is obligatory once in a lifetime, but only for those .with means

Eid al-Adha recalls the story of how God commanded Ibrahim to sacrifice his son Ismail as a test of faith. The story, as narrated in the Quran, describes Satan’s attempt to tempt Ibrahim so he would disobey God’s command. Ibrahim, however, remains unmoved and informs Ismail, who is willing to be sacrificed But, just as Ibrahim attempts to kill his son, God intervenes and a ram is sacrificed in place of Ismail. During Eid al-Adha, Muslims slaughter an animal to remember Ibrahim’s sacrifice and remind themselves of the need to submit to the will of God

? How do Muslims celebrate Eid

Both Eids features two to three days of celebrations that include special morning prayers. People greet each other with “Eid Mubarak,” meaning “Blessed Eid” and with formal embraces. Sweet dishes are prepared at home and gifts are given to children and to those in need. In addition, Muslims are encouraged to forgive and seek forgiveness , and Muslims should wear New clothes and visit relatives .,Practices vary from country to country

In Some countries Muslims decorate their homes with lanterns, twinkling lights or flowers. Special food is prepared and friends and .family are invited over to celebrate

Amid the reflection and rejoicing, Eid al-Fitr is a time for charity, known as Zakat al-Fitr. Eid is meant to be a time of joy and blessing for the entire Muslim community and a time for distributing one’s wealth

In Eid al adha especially Muslims who can afford slaughter an animal (sheep - cow) to remember Ibrahim’s sacrifice and remind themselves of the need to submit to the will of God and spread some parts the meat to family , friends and mostly to people in need

Charity to the poor is a highly emphasized value in Islam. The Quran says, “Believe in Allah and his messenger, and give charity out of the (substance) that Allah has made you heirs of. For those of you who believe and give “.charity – for them is a great reward

?When are they celebrated

Eid al-Fitr is celebrated on the first day of the .10th month in the Islamic calendar

Eid al-Adha is celebrated on the 10th day of .the final month in the Islamic calendar

The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar, and dates are calculated based on lunar phases. Since the Islamic calendar year is shorter than the solar Gregorian calendar year by 10 to 12 days, the dates for Ramadan and Eid on the .Gregorian calendar can vary year by year