

Hajj Begins as Muslims Flock to Mecca

Name _____



RE—Pilgrimage

GR—Identify and explain how structure contributes to meaning

Among the faithful making the annual pilgrimage are survivors and relatives of victims of the New Zealand mosque attacks

Hundreds of thousands of Muslims from across the globe on Friday began the annual pilgrimage to the Great Mosque of Mecca in Saudi Arabia for the hajj — with the faithful walking in the footsteps of the Prophet Muhammad — one of Islam’s most holy rites.

This year’s pilgrims included survivors and relatives of victims of the mosque attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand, who were invited to the hajj as guests of the Saudi king.

More than 1.8 million Muslims had arrived in the country by land, air and sea by Wednesday, according to Saudi officials, to take part in the five-day religious journey to sites in and around Mecca. Hundreds of thousands of Saudis were expected to take part.

“The most important thing is that the New Zealand community, including Muslims, they stood together against hate,” Mr. Fouda told The Associated Press. “And we are still saying that hate is not going to divide us. We will continue to love each other.”

All Muslims who are physically and financially able are expected to make the journey to Mecca at least once in their lifetime. Those who take part wear simple clothing: For men, it’s customary to wear a white, seamless draping garment, while women wear loosefitting clothing and a head scarf, often white.

The simple dress, a sign of purity and equality, is considered a unifying ritual for Muslims of all sects and nationalities.

RE—Pilgrimage

Newspaper article on Mecca Pilgrimage

1. What is the purpose of the heading?
2. Why did the author choose to use lots of short paragraphs?
3. In what way does the image help the reader understand the text?
4. How does the quote add something to the text?
5. Where do Muslims travel to for their pilgrimage?
6. What does the word 'annual' tell you about this pilgrimage?
7. How many Muslims have arrived in Saudi Arabia?
8. How long does this religious festival last for?
9. What happened in Christchurch, New Zealand?
10. How do you know the Saudi King wanted to do something for the people of Christchurch?
11. Find the quote from Mr Fouda. What is his message and view?
12. Are there any Muslims that aren't expected to go to Mecca?
13. Why do visitors on this pilgrimage just wear simple clothes?