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WHAT IS THE KA'BA?

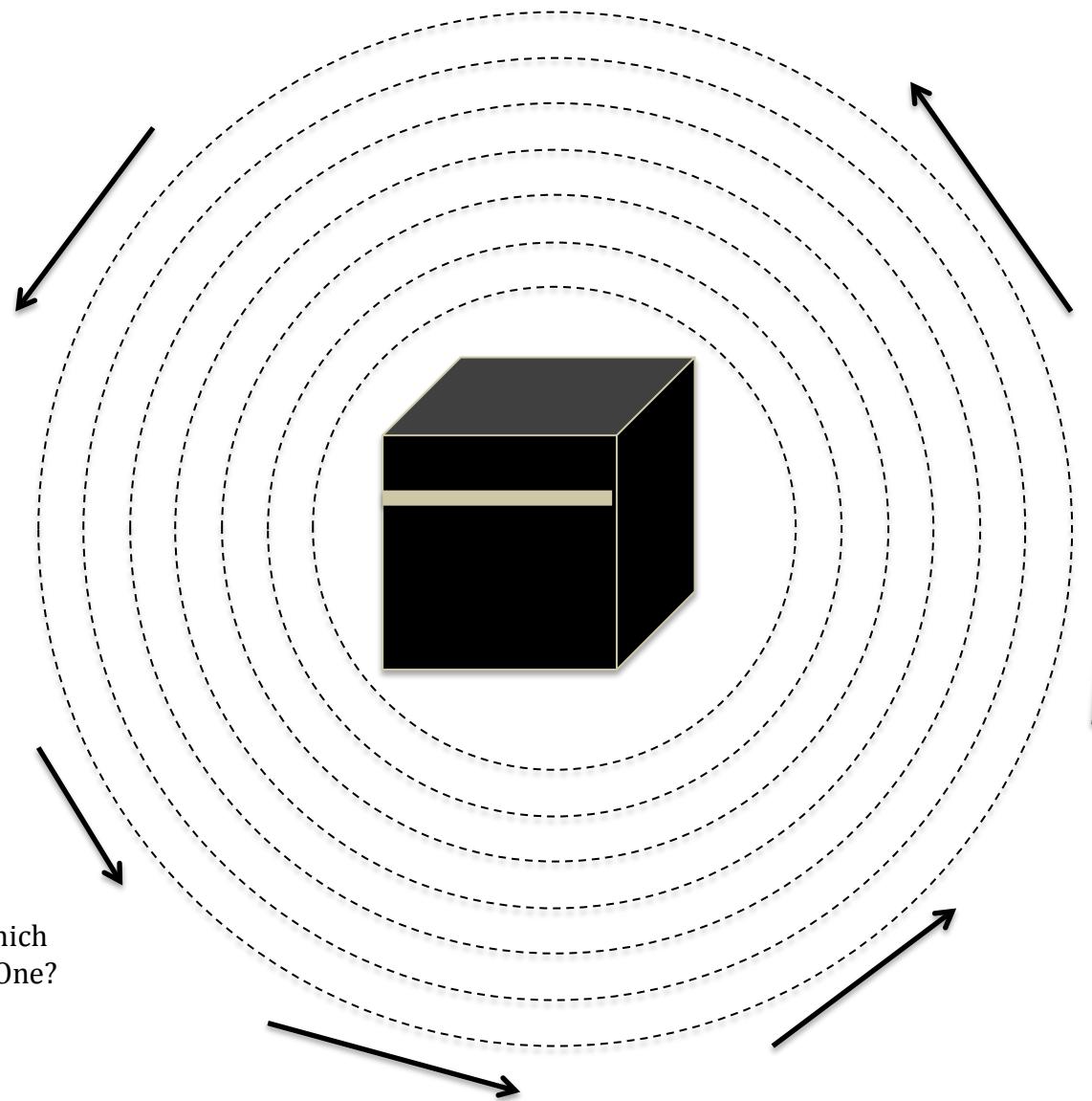
Prophet Ibrahim 'alayhi as-salaam was a special friend (Khalil) to Allah. He was the first of the prophets to teach people that there is only One Allah for everyone and that no idols can be God.

Allah told Prophet Ibrahim to build the Ka'ba in Makkah. This was the first time Allah instructed someone to build Him a house of worship on Earth. This is why the Ka'ba is so important to Muslims. Even though we are far away from Makkah, we pray facing the Ka'ba every day to remind us of **Tawheed**- Oneness. No matter where we are in the world, our qiblah is the same—the special house of Allah, the One.

When Muslims visit the Ka'ba during Hajj or other times of year ('Umrah), they walk around the Ka'ba seven times. These circles around the Ka'ba are called **Tawaf**.

Which letters do you hear in the word Tawheed? Which letters do you hear in Allah's name al-**Waahid**, The One?

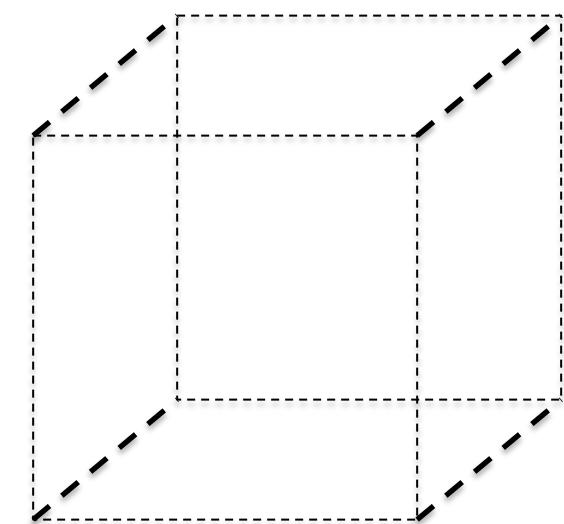
خ ح ث ت ب ا
ص ش س ز ر ذ د
ق ف غ ع ظ ط ض
ي و ه ن م ل ك



Trace and count the circles around the Ka'ba above. Go in the direction of the arrows. This is counter clockwise (the opposite direction of a clock's hands) and this is the direction of the Tawaf.

The word Ka'ba means cube. A cube has six square sides. Make a cube with magnet tiles and count the sides. Trace the cube below. How many squares can you count?

After you trace it, color it any color you like. Even though we think of the Ka'ba as being a black cube, the **kiswah** that covers it can be any color. Every year during Hajj, a new kiswah is draped over the Ka'ba. The kiswah is perfumed so it smells nice.



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