Judaism

Who are Jewish people and what do they believe?

שָׁלוֹם Shalom!

RE · Year 1/2

Today we are learning...

To learn some important things about Judaism and what Jewish people believe.

- ✔ I can say that Jewish people believe in one God.
- ✔ I can name the Jewish holy book (the Torah).
- ✔ I can say what a synagogue is and what Shabbat is.

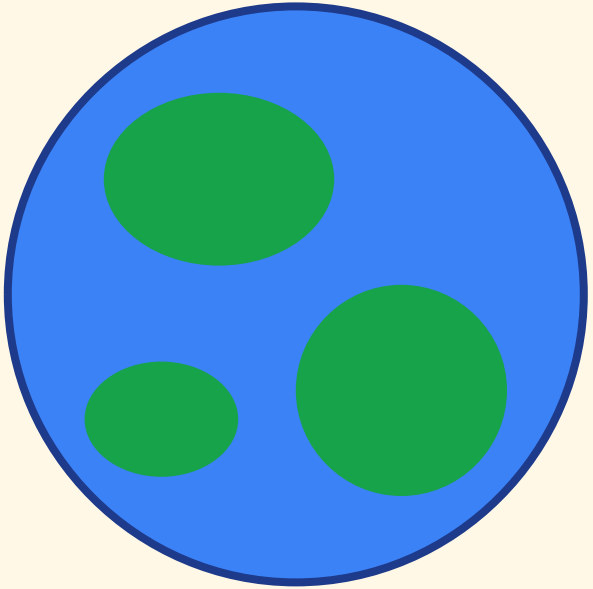
What's in the mystery bag?



Feel it... guess it... what could it be used for?

What is Judaism?

- ★ Judaism is a religion. It is very, very old!
- ★ People who follow Judaism are called Jewish people.
- ★ Jewish people believe there is one God who made the world.
- ★ Jewish people live all over the world — including here in the UK.



ONE God

Abraham

A long, long time ago a man called Abraham looked up at the night sky. He believed that one God made everything. God promised Abraham that his family would grow to be as many as the stars in the sky! Jewish people remember Abraham as the father of the Jewish people.

A special symbol: the Star of David

- ★ This is the Star of David.
- ★ It has 6 points. Can you count them?
- ★ It is made of two triangles.
- ★ You might see it on synagogues and on the flag of Israel.



The Torah: a holy book

- ★ The Torah is the Jewish holy book.
- ★ It tells about God and how to live a good life.
- ★ It is written by hand on a long scroll, in a language called Hebrew.
- ★ Hebrew is read from right to left!

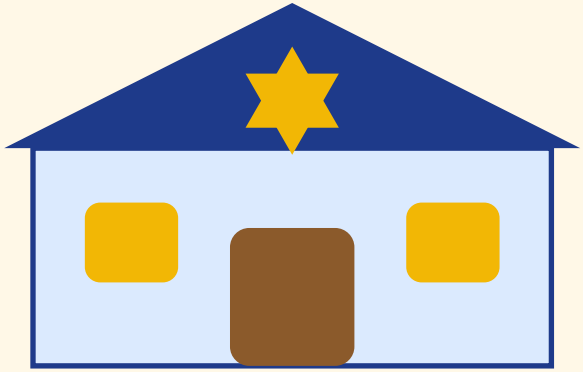


תּוֹרָה

Key word: Torah — the Jewish holy book

The synagogue

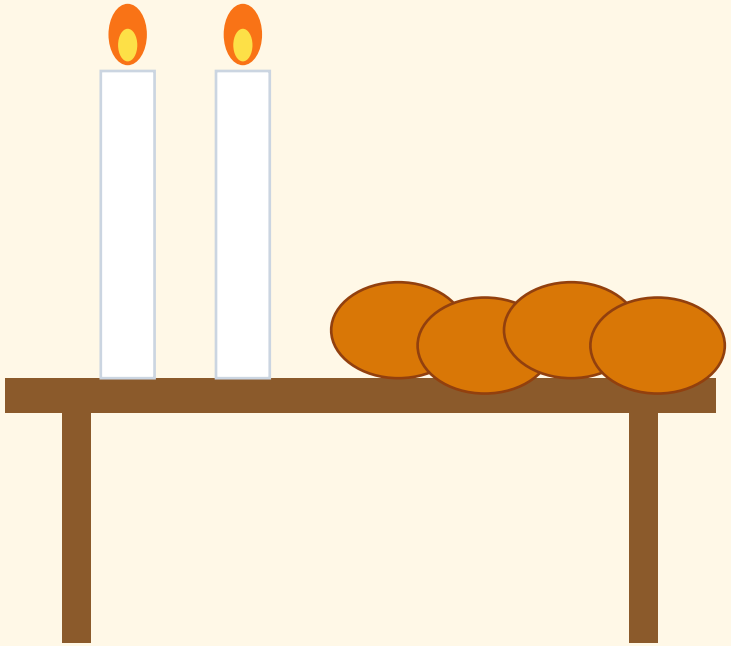
- ★ A synagogue is a building where Jewish people meet together.
- ★ They pray to God, sing and learn about the Torah.
- ★ The Torah scrolls are kept safe in a special cupboard called the Ark.
- ★ A rabbi is a teacher who helps people learn.



Key word: synagogue — a place of worship

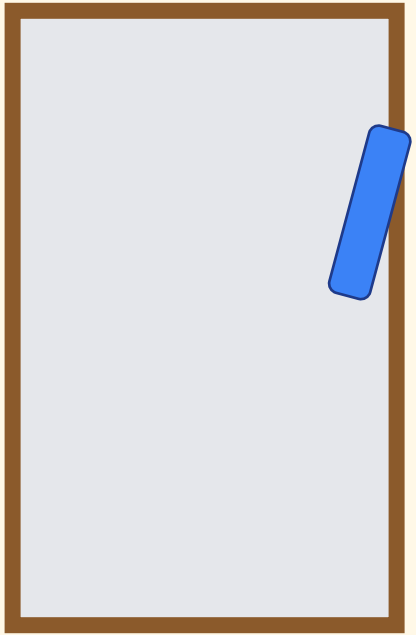
Shabbat: a day of rest

- ★ Shabbat is a special day of rest every week.
- ★ It starts on Friday evening and ends on Saturday evening.
- ★ Families light candles, share a meal and eat challah bread.
- ★ No work — time for family, God and rest!



Key word: Shabbat — the Jewish day of rest

More special things



Mezuzah

A tiny scroll in a case on the doorpost. It reminds Jewish people of God when they go in and out.



Hanukkah

The festival of lights is coming up in December! Candles are lit for 8 nights.

Video time!



Watch and spot! Can you see...

- the Torah scroll
- the synagogue
- Hebrew writing
- a kippah (small cap)

What is Judaism? (3 mins)

Click the title to open the BBC video

Talk partners

1. What did you see in the video?
2. Why do you think the Torah is so special?
3. What would you like to find out about Judaism?

True or false? 👍 or 👎

1. Jewish people believe in one God.

2. The Jewish holy book is called the Torah.

3. Shabbat happens once a year.

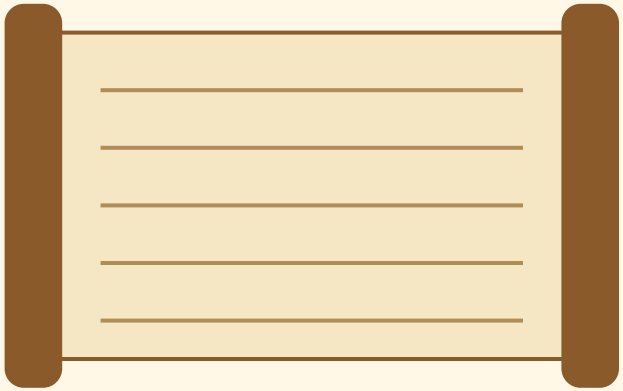
4. A synagogue is where Jewish people meet to pray.

True or false? Answers

1. Jewish people believe in one God.	TRUE
2. The Jewish holy book is called the Torah.	TRUE
3. Shabbat happens once a year.	FALSE
4. A synagogue is where Jewish people meet to pray.	TRUE

Activity: make your own Torah scroll

1. Decorate a long strip of paper.
2. Inside, draw or write what you have learned about Judaism today.
3. Glue a lolly stick or straw to each end.
4. Roll it up from both ends, just like a real Torah!



☆

Draw a picture and copy the word Torah or Shalom

☆☆

Draw and label 2 things you learned

☆☆☆

Write sentences: why is the Torah special?

What have we learned?

Tell your partner ONE new thing you learned today.
Check our 'I can' statements: 👍 ✋ 👎

Let's say goodbye the Hebrew way... שָׁלוֹם Shalom!

Teacher page: lesson plan (50 mins)

Time	Section	Slides
0–5	Hook: Shalom greeting, objective, mystery bag	1–3
5–17	Key facts: one God, Abraham, Star of David, Torah, synagogue, Shabbat, mezuzah, Hanukkah	4–10
17–25	Video (3½ mins) with watch-and-spot, then talk partners	11–12
25–30	True or false quiz	13–14
30–45	Activity: make a Torah scroll (3 levels)	15
45–50	Plenary: share, 'I can' check, say Shalom	16

Resources: mystery bag + artefacts or pictures · paper strips, lolly sticks/straws, glue, crayons · check the video plays on the school network.
Be sensitive: say "Jewish people believe…" and "many / some Jewish people…". Practice varies between families. Let Jewish pupils share only if they want to.