



Welwyn ST Mary's RE knowledge organiser

Year 6: Judaism Knowledge organiser

Judaism is the religion of the Jewish people and is one of the oldest world religions. The history of Judaism goes back a very long way, to the time of a man called Abraham who lived in the Middle East more than 4,000 years ago. Abraham taught the people to worship only one God.

Beliefs

Jews believe in one God who created the world and everything in it.

Jews believe that God made an agreement, called a covenant, with Abraham. God promised to watch over the Jewish people and give the land of Israel to Abraham's descendants. In return, the Jews promised to keep the rules God had given them and live holy lives.

Abraham is regarded as the 'father' of the Jewish people.

The Holy Book

The Jewish holy book is the Hebrew Bible, especially the first five books called the Torah. The Torah scrolls are kept at the front of the synagogue in a special cupboard called the Ark. The Torah teaches Jewish history and traditions and how to live a better life. It is read in synagogue on Saturdays, Mondays and Thursdays.

The words of the Torah are handwritten on scrolls in Hebrew. This is the ancient language of the Jews as well as the language of modern Israel.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-the-torah/zhs2t39>

Worshipping at home

Shabbat lasts from Friday to Saturday night. It is a day of rest and prayer and is seen as a gift from God. Two loaves of (C)hallah bread are made especially for the Shabbat meal on Friday night.

Vocabulary

Torah - the five books of Moses in the Hebrew Bible.

Rabbi - a Jewish religious leader

Moses - a great Jewish prophet. Jews believe that Moses received the ten commandments from God and led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt.

Pesach - Passover. The day when Jews remember how in ancient times they were saved from slavery in Egypt. The story is in Exodus.

Shabbat - the Jewish holy day of rest and prayer. It lasts from Friday evening to Saturday evening.

Bar / Bat Mitzvah - when a Jewish boy or girl is considered to be an adult by the synagogue.

Kippah - a small cap which some Jews wear for worship.

Tefillin - leather boxes with straps to attach them to the forehead and upper part of the left arm.

Tallit - a prayer shawl

Mezuzah - this means 'doorpost'. A mezuzah is fixed on the right side of the door in a Jewish home and contains the Shema.

Menorah - a candlestick that holds seven candles. It is a Jewish symbol.

Driedl - a spinning top game which is said to have originated when Jewish people were forbidden to learn Hebrew and so disguised it as a game.

Star of David - David was a great Jewish King of ancient times.

Shema prayer - the first prayer a Jewish child is taught and the most important prayer in Judaism.

Synagogue - a building in which Jews meet to worship and study.

Festivals and celebrations

Ten days of Repentance begin with the festival of **Rosh Hashanah** at the start of the Jewish new year. This is a time to look back at the past year and say sorry and ask for forgiveness. The 10th day is **Yom Kippur** and is the holiest day in the year.

Pesach (Passover) is a festival that remembers how the Jews escaped from slavery in Egypt. A seder plate is used with symbolic foods to help retell the story.

Hanukkah is a festival of light. It lasts for eight days and takes place in late November or December.

Bar / Bat Mitzvah is when a Jewish boy or girl is considered to be an adult by the synagogue and they are able to take responsibilities such as leading a prayer service and reading from the Torah. The child has to choose a Mitzvah project where they do something to help others such as support a charity.

Holy places

Israel is where the religion of Judaism started and this is where many of the most holy places are. The Temple in Jerusalem was the centre of Jewish worship in ancient times. In AD70, Roman soldiers destroyed the city including the Temple, which was set on fire. The Western Wall is the only part that remains and, for Jews, it is the holiest place on Earth.

Mount Sinai is a mountain in the Sinai Desert in Egypt. This is where Jews believe God gave Moses the Ten commandments.

