

JUDAISM KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Topic Summary

In this topic you will begin to understand what exactly it means for a person to be Jewish, whether that be culturally or religiously. It is key to mention that Judaism is both a culture and religion. Not everyone who is Jewish is part of the Jewish religion.

We will discuss key beliefs within Judaism and how they factor into the everyday life of Jewish people. As well as the practices that Jewish people follow in Judaism.

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year festival. It lasts two days and commemorates the creation of the world.

Rosh Hashanah is also a time when God judges all humanity, when Jews believe that God considers a person's good and bad deeds over the last year and decides what the next year will be like for them. It is a time of asking for forgiveness of sins.

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. It is also called the Day of Atonement. Jews focus on asking God for forgiveness as it is believed that he will make his final judgement on the day of Yom Kippur sometime in the future.

Jews spend a lot of time at the synagogue and undertake a 25-hour fast. They wear white as a symbol of purity and do not bathe, wear leather shoes or have sex.

Abraham:

Jewish people call him 'Avraham Avinu' which means Father Abraham, they see him as the founder of Jewish religion and earliest ancestor.

God appeared to Abram in the Torah telling him there was only one God and that he should leave his home and travel to 'Canaan' which God would give to him.

Abram began this journey at 75 with his wife Sarai, his nephew and a group of other people.

Justice:

For Jews, pursuing justice is a sacred duty that can only be achieved when accompanied with truth and peace. A key figure in Judaism, the prophet Amos said that people should: "let justice well up like water, Righteousness like an unfailing stream".

Jews believe that the Torah and the prophets were sent by God to help people understand and bring about justice.

Kindness to others:

Many Jews believe that, by showing kindness, people can try to heal the world. Jews aim to show kindness to others as the Torah teaches that people should love others in the same way that they love themselves.

Healing the world:

Jewish people think its very important to help God make the world a better place. GIFT – Jewish charity that aims to inspire and educate young people to become givers.

Keywords:

- Covenant
- Abraham
- Torah
- Nevi'im
- Mitzvot
- Shabbat
- Shema
- Synagogue
- Pesach (Passover)
- Tenakh
- Rabbi
- Hebrew
- Ark
- Seder
- Kippah
- Tefillin
- Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah
- Menorah
- Hanukkah
- Patriarch
- Canaan
- Exodus
- Chesed (kindness to others)
- Tikkun olam (healing the world)
- Tzedakah (justice)
- Yom Kippur
- Rosh Hashanah

THE PLAGUES ON EGYPT EXODUS 7-12

- BLOOD** (7:14-24) The Nile, along with all of the water in Egypt, turns into blood. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.
- FROGS** (7:25 - 8:15) Frogs cover the land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
- GNATS** (8:16-19) The dust turns to gnats, which cover the people and animals of Egypt. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.
- FLIES** (8:20-32) Flies fill the houses and land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
- LIVESTOCK** (9:1-7) All of the livestock of the Egyptians die. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.
- BOILS** (9:8-12) Festering boils break out on the Egyptians and their animals. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.
- HAIL** (9:13-35) Hail strikes down everything in the fields - humans, animals and trees. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness and promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
- LOCUSTS** (10:1-20) Locusts devour every tree and plant in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness, but does not let the Israelites go.
- DARKNESS** (10:21-29) Darkness covers the land of Egypt for three days. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
- FIRSTBORN** (11:1-10; 12:29-32) Every firstborn son and firstborn of the cattle in Egypt dies. Pharaoh finally lets the Israelites leave Egypt, only to change his mind and pursue them to the Red Sea.

Moses' story begins in Egypt, with the Hebrews (Jews) kept as slaves by the Egyptian Pharaohs. Jews remember how the Israelites left slavery behind them when Moses led them out of Egypt more than 3,000 years ago. Moses went to see the Pharaoh many times, but each time he refused to release the Israelites. Moses warned the Pharaoh that God would send ten plagues on Egypt if the Pharaoh did not let them go. **Jewish people celebrate this with Pesach and Passover.**

Holy Books

Tanakh, Hebrew acronym for the three parts:

The Torah – which is the first five books, and regarded as the holiest as it has god's law. The Nevi'im which are the books of the prophets. Ketuvim which are other important writings.



Jewish forms of worship

Worship at home - Shabbat

Shabbat (The Sabbath) is the most important time of the week for Jews. It begins on Friday evenings and ends at sunset on Saturdays.

During Shabbat, Jews remember that God created the world and on the 7th day he rested. Jewish people believe God's Day of rest was a Saturday.

Also on the table will be two loaves of challah bread to represent the food God provided for the Jews when they were walking through the desert in flight from Egypt.

Bar, Bat, B'nai Mitzvah - These occur at around ages 12-13, and this is symbolic of starting the journey to adulthood. "Coming of Age"

After these ceremonies Jewish boys or girls become responsible for living according to Jewish Law. At this point, each young person must accept the law and its obligations, participate fully in services at the synagogue and set a good example for others. After the ceremony, a Jewish boy can be counted as part of a minyan, and in Reform synagogues girls who are Bat Mitzvah can also be counted. "B'nai" is a plural masculine pronoun but is used for mixed-gender groups.

Worship at the Synagogue

Synagogue means 'bringing together' or 'assembly'. A synagogue is a place of worship, gathering and education about the Jewish faith. On the outside of the building there is a Star of David and often a menorah.

The main prayers happen in the prayer hall, which is usually rectangular with seats on three sides facing inwards.

Pesach

Pesach is a festival held in March or April that celebrates the Jews' escape from slavery in Egypt. It lasts for seven to eight days and begins with the Seder, which consists of a service and a meal.

Wine is served, as it is at all Jewish festivals, but on Pesach it takes on another meaning as a symbol of the lambs' blood painted onto the doorposts to save Jewish children from the final of the ten plagues. Matzah is eaten to represent the fact that the Jews did not have time to let the bread rise before their escape.

The foods on the Seder plate each symbolise a part of the Exodus story, which is retold during the meal using a book of ritual called the Haggadah.

These foods are:

Karpas, maror, baytsah, z'roah, charoset.

The Shema

The Shema is a prayer from the Torah that is used in morning and evening services in synagogues as well as being said at home by Jews to express belief in one God:

"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone." Deuteronomy 6:4

