### **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.

# THE PLAGUES ON EGYPT EXODUS 7-12 STEELER



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.

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#### **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.

#### 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





# 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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"

THE TORAH

חמשה חומשי תורה

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.

#### 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:	Kindness to others:
For Jews,	
pursuing justice is	Many Jews
a sacred duty that	believe that
can only	by showing
be achieved when	kindness,
accompanied with	people can
truth and peace. A	try to heal
key figure in	the world.
Judaism, the	Jews aim to
prophet Amos said	show
that	kindness to
people should: "let	others as
justice well up like	the Torah
water,	teaches that
Righteousness	people
like an unfailing	should love
stream".	others in the
	same way
Jews believe that	that
the Torah and the	they love

by God to help

and bring about

together' or 'assembly'. A synagogue

is a place of worship, gathering and

education about the Jewish faith. On

a Star of David and often a menorah.

rectangular with seats on three sides

the outside of the building there is

The main prayers happen in the

prayer hall, which is usually

facing inwards.

justice.

Worship at the Synagogue

Synagogue means 'bringing

people understand

# Healing the world:

**Jewish** people think its very important to help God make the world a better place. GIFT -Jewish at charity that aims to inspire and educate young people to prophets were sent | themselves. 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

Cannan

Exodus

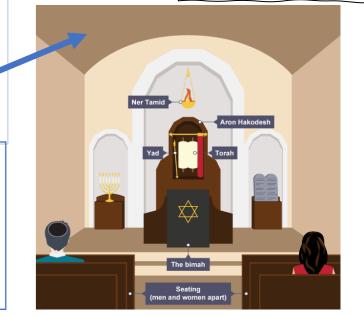
Chesed (kindness to others)

Tikkun olam (healing the world)

Tzedakah (justice)

Yom Kippur

Rosh Hashanah



# Pesach

Pesach is a festival held in March or April that celebrates the Jews' escape from slavery in Eaypt. 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.