



Keyingham Graduate Award – RE (Year 2)

Judaism

What is Judaism?

Judaism began nearly 4,000 years ago, in the Middle East. This is a large area on the border of Asia, Africa and Europe. A person who believes in Judaism is called a Jew.



[What Is Judaism? - BBC Bitesize](#)

What do Jews believe?

Jews believe that there is only one **God**. They believe they have a special agreement with God called a **covenant**. Jews promise to obey God's laws to say thank you to him for looking after them.



Abraham

Jews believe a man called Abraham was the first person to make a covenant with God. Abraham was a **Hebrew**. Jews believe God named Abraham's grandson Israel. After this, the Hebrews became known as the **Israelites**. Abraham is considered the **father** of the Jewish people and the Israelites are his descendants.



Moses

Later, a man named Moses saved the Jewish people from persecution in Egypt when he led them to safety across the Red Sea. After this, the Jews lived in the desert where God gave Moses a set of rules which they should live by, including the Ten Commandments. Moses is the most important Jewish **prophet**.

What is the Jewish Holy Book?

The Jewish holy book is known as the **Tanakh** or **Hebrew Bible**. The word Tanakh comes from the first letters of the three different parts of the book:



- **The Torah (T)** which is the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. The Christian Bible also begins with these books, in the part which Christians call the Old Testament.
- **The Nevi'im (N)** which are the books of the Jewish prophets such as Joshua and Isaiah.
- **Ketuvim (K)** which is a collection of other important writings.



The Torah has 613 **commandments** which are called **mitzvah**. They are the rules that Jews try to follow. The most important ones are the Ten Commandments given to **Moses**.

The Torah is so special that people are not allowed to touch it. It is kept in a safe place called an **ark** in the Jewish temple and when people read from the Torah, they use a special pointer stick called a **yad** to follow the words.

Where do Jews worship?

Jews worship God in a **synagogue**. Jewish people attend services at the synagogue on Saturdays during **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 seventh day he rested. Jews believe God's day of rest was a Saturday.



The services in the synagogue are led by a religious leader called a **rabbi**, which means 'Teacher' in Hebrew.

[BBC Two - My Life, My Religion, Judaism, What is Judaism?](#)

What is the symbol for Judaism?



There are lots of symbols for Judaism but the main one is the Star of David

The six-pointed star is **the Creator's Star or Star of Creation**. Its six points stand for the six days of creation, and are also represent the six attributes of God: power, wisdom, majesty, love, mercy and justice.



What celebrations do Jews have?

Jewish people have lots of celebrations each year, so they remember important times that have happened in the past;

- Passover (Friday 15th – Saturday 23rd April 2022)



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- Rosh Hashanah (Monday 6th – Wednesday 8th September 2021)

- Yom Kippur (Wednesday 15th – Thursday 16th September 2021)



- Hannukah (Sunday 28th November – Monday 6th December 2021)

Where do Jewish people live?

Jewish people live all over the world but mainly in America, Europe, Russia, China and Australia.



Let's see how much you can remember about Judaism ...



1. Where do Jews worship?
2. What is a Jew's special book called?
3. Name two celebrations that Jewish people have.
4. What do Jews believe?
5. Who was Abraham?
6. How many commandments are there in the Jewish Holy Book?
7. What is Jewish religious leader called?

Challenge time!

Shabbat

Shabbat is a special ritual that happens every week. Watch the video link below to find out more about it.

[BBC Two - My Life, My Religion, Judaism, Shabbat](#)

Question time!

1. When does Shabbat start?
2. How long does it last?
3. What can't you do during Shabbat?
4. Why do Jewish people celebrate Shabbat?
5. Do you think you would like to be Jewish? Why? Why not?