

RELIGIOUS STUDIES · Y3-Y6

Judaism

Knowledge Organiser — KS2 RE

Key vocabulary

1

Jewish

A follower of Judaism. There are around 15 million Jewish people worldwide. Judaism is one of the oldest religions, around 4,000 years old.

2

Abraham

Considered the father of Judaism. Jewish people trace their faith back to him and his covenant (agreement) with God.

3

Moses

The prophet who led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and received the Ten Commandments from God.

4

Torah

The Jewish holy book. Contains the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. Hand-written on a scroll.

5

Synagogue

The Jewish place of worship and study. The Torah is read here on the Sabbath.

6

Rabbi

A Jewish religious teacher and leader of the synagogue community.

7

Shabbat

The Jewish day of rest. From Friday evening to Saturday evening. A time for family, prayer and rest from work.



8

Kosher

Food that follows Jewish dietary laws. For example, pork is not kosher, and meat and dairy are not eaten together.

Beliefs and practices

Core elements of Jewish I

- Belief in one God (monotheism) — the same God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- The Torah is the word of God, given to Moses on Mount Sinai
- The Ten Commandments — moral laws all Jewish people follow
- Mitzvot — 613 commandments in the Torah covering all aspects of life
- Prayer three times a day (morning, afternoon, evening)
- Shabbat observance — rest from Friday evening to Saturday evening
- Bar Mitzvah (boys, age 13) and Bat Mitzvah (girls, age 12) — coming-of-age ceremonies
- Kosher food laws
- Tzedakah (charity) — giving to those in need is a religious duty
- Tikkun olam — 'repairing the world' through good actions

Festivals and special times

When Jewish people celeb

- Rosh Hashanah — the Jewish New Year, in autumn
- Yom Kippur — Day of Atonement, the most solemn day, fasting and prayer
- Sukkot — harvest festival, building outdoor shelters (sukkah)
- Hanukkah — eight-day festival of lights in winter, lighting the menorah
- Tu BiShvat — 'New Year of the Trees', planting and caring for trees
- Purim — joyful festival celebrating the story of Esther



- Passover (Pesach) — eight days remembering the exodus from Egypt, eating matzah
- Shavuot — celebrating the giving of the Torah

Places of worship and symbols

Jewish people worship in synagogues. The Western Wall in Jerusalem is the holiest site for Jewish people. Symbols include: the Star of David (Magen David), the menorah (seven-branched lampstand), the Torah scroll, the kippah (skullcap worn by men) and the mezuzah (small case containing prayer text, fixed to doorways). There are different traditions within Judaism: Orthodox, Reform, Conservative — sharing core beliefs but differing on observance.

