

# JUDAISM



## Knowledge Organiser

Key Words			
Judaism	The monotheistic religion of the Jewish people.	Passover	The major Jewish spring festival which commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery.
Jew	A member of the people and cultural community whose traditional religion is Judaism and who trace their origins through the ancient Hebrew people of Israel to Abraham.	Original Sin	The initiation ceremony of a Jewish boy who has reached the age of 13 and is regarded as ready to observe religious laws and commandments, and is eligible to take part in public worship.
Covenant	A promise made by God to protect humans who serve and obey him.	Exodus	A mass departure of people – when the Israelites left Egypt.
Synagogue	The building where a Jewish assembly or congregation meets for religious worship and instruction.	Jerusalem	The capital city of Jerusalem.

### Overview

**Judaism** is one of the world's major religions. It is the **world's 10<sup>th</sup> largest religion**, with about 14.6 million followers. It is around 4,000 years old.

**Jews** are the people who follow Judaism. Like Christians and Muslims, Jews believe that there is only one God, who created the world and everything in it.

**Abraham** is seen as the father of the Jewish religion. Jews believe that Judaism began when he started worshipping one God instead of many.

Judaism began in the **Middle East** – but there are now Jewish people all across the world.

The main holy book of Judaism is the **Torah**, written in **Hebrew**. **Synagogues** are Jewish worship buildings.

**Image of the Great Synagogue of Florence, in Italy, Europe.**



### Top 10 Facts!

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| 1. Jews believe in one God, that is a spirit and has no physical form.          | 6. Strict Jews are not allowed to travel or watch TV on the day of Shabbat!  |
| 2. A kippah is the clothing item that many Jewish men wear on their head.       | 7. Jewish New Year takes place in September/October time, and is called Rosh Hashanah.                                     |
| 3. Praying is very important in Judaism – there are prayers for every occasion. | 8. Jews fast for 25 hours and pray during Yom Kippur.  |
| 4. Jesus was born into the Jewish religion, but began preaching his own ideas.  | 9. Anne Frank was a famous Jewish girl, who was killed in the Holocaust.   |
| 5. Many Jewish homes have a family box, and give to those in need.              | 10. The Anne Frank House and Secret Annex, in Amsterdam, Netherlands, remains one of Europe's busiest tourist attractions. |

## Jewish Beliefs

### The Four Stages of Life



- Jews believe in four important stages of life, and mark each with a religious ceremony.
- The four are: birth, becoming an adult, marriage and death.

-When Jewish boys (aged 13) and Jewish girls (aged 12) become Jewish adults, they have a bar mitzvah (for boys) or bat mitzvah (for girls) ceremony. At these ages, Jewish religion, law and social life judges that the boys and girls become responsible for their own actions. The ceremony is usually held on the first Shabbat (Jewish day of rest) after their birthday. In a bar mitzvah ceremony, a boy must read passages from the Torah.

### The Story of Abraham

- Abraham is an important figure in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. His story is told in the Genesis section of the Bible.



-According to the story, Abraham made an agreement with God, in which he promised to be faithful and to teach his laws to the world. In return God gave Abraham and his descendants the land of Israel. Even though Abraham was 99, and his wife Sarah 90, God enabled them to have a son, Isaac, forming the first Jewish family.

### Ceremonies and Festivals



- Jews enjoy many ceremonies and festivals as a part of their religion.

-Passover takes place in March or April, and is when Jewish people remember how God brought them out of Egypt (the Exodus). A special meal is created to remind the Jews of the good and bad times in the past. It includes hard boiled egg, parsley, boiled potato, lettuce, horseradish, chopped apples and walnuts.

-Hannukah takes place in December and is known as 'the Jewish festival of lights.' People light candles, exchange presents, and eat foods such as latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiot (jam doughnuts).

## Answers to Important Questions and Key Vocabulary

<p><b>Where and how do Jews worship? Why?</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Synagogues are where Jewish people go to worship.</li> <li>-In Orthodox synagogues, men and women sit separately. In progressive synagogues, men and women can sit together and worship.</li> <li>-Synagogues have large rooms for prayers, and normally smaller rooms for studying.</li> <li>-The front of a synagogue faces towards Jerusalem.</li> <li>-There is always a raised platform called a Bimah.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Key Vocabulary</b></p>
<p><b>What is the Torah?</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The Torah is the Jewish holy book.</li> <li>-They are written in Hebrew on rolls of parchment. The scrolls are never touched when they are read from – readers use a pointer called a yad.</li> </ul>	<p>Judaism</p>
<p><b>Where do most Jews live in the world?</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-There are around 14.6 million Jews in the world.</li> <li>-Two countries – the United States and Israel - have 81% of the world's total Jewish population.</li> <li>-Some of the other countries with substantial Jewish populations include France, Canada, Russia, the United Kingdom, Argentina and Germany.</li> <li>-There were 17 million Jews in 1939, but this was reduced to 11 million by 1945 due to the Holocaust.</li> </ul>	<p>Jew</p>
<p><b>How many different types of Jews are there?</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-There are many different branches of Judaism.</li> <li>-Some Jews still follow all of Judaism's original laws and customs – these are called Orthodox Jews.</li> <li>-Jews who do not follow all of these traditions are called Progressive Jews. Progressive Jews are happy to be flexible with certain Jewish laws, in order to fit in with their modern, everyday lives.</li> </ul>	<p>Torah</p>
			<p>Synagogue</p>
			<p>Abraham</p>
			<p>Passover</p>
			<p>Hanukkah</p>
			<p>Bar Mitzvah</p>
			<p>Bat Mitzvah</p>
			<p>Middle East</p>
			<p>Exodus</p>
			<p>Jerusalem</p>
			<p>Yad</p>

### Jewish Dietary Laws

#### What does eating certain foods have to do with religion?



If religion is concerned with every aspect of human life, then it must also include the food we eat. By attaching Jewish ideas to food laws, Jewish people are reminded of their identity and relationship with God every few hours when they eat.

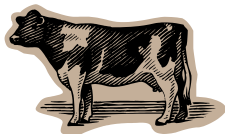
There are some food laws laid down in the Torah, and in addition to this, Jewish communities in different parts of the world have also come up with their own ways of preparing food and choosing the foods they eat. So for example, an Indian Jew is more likely than a Spanish Jew to eat curry, but both the Indian and the Spanish Jew would obey the rules in the Torah about which kinds of meat or fish could be included in their meal.

#### What does 'Kosher' mean?

'Kosher' translates roughly as 'acceptable' – it fits the laws set out in the Torah. These laws forbid the eating of certain foods and also say that dairy and meat foods should be stored and prepared separately.

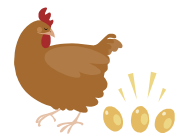
#### Which foods are Kosher?

According to the Torah (Genesis, Chapter 9), God said to Noah that 'every moving thing that liveth should be meat for you.' He did, however, give certain limits:



Animals: The list of kosher foods includes all mammals which chew the cud and have split hooves (e.g. sheep, cows, deer). Any mammal which does not fit this description (e.g. pigs, rabbits, horses) are not allowed.

Birds: Birds are kosher if they are domesticated (farmed), e.g. chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys. Wild birds and birds of prey are not allowed. Eggs from any non-kosher birds are not allowed either.



Fish: All fish that have fins and scales are kosher. Shell fish, or sea creatures without scales and fins are not allowed.



Vegetables and fruit: All vegetables and fruit are kosher unless they have been by insects or grubs.



kosher, invaded

#### What are the laws about blood?

It is forbidden in the Jewish religion to consume blood. So animals that are to be eaten must be killed in a special way to ensure that as much blood as possible is removed from the meat. Once then animal

has been killed, it must be soaked and salted. It would not be acceptable, therefore, to serve up beef to an Orthodox Jew and assume that it will be fine. It needs to have been bought from a kosher butcher and prepared in this special way.

### What are the laws about milk (dairy) and meat?

The Torah says: *'Thou shalt not boil a calf in its mother's milk'*.



The rules for orthodox (strict) Jews are that **milk (dairy) and meat products must not be stored, prepared or cooked together**. All utensils used in the preparation of these foods must be kept completely separate, as well as the tea towels used to dry them. A kosher household will have two sets of plates, cutlery etc and they would never, for example, fry a steak in butter or put butter on a chicken sandwich.

Some very strict Jews also **wait between eating the two types of food**, from one to six hours, so that a complete separation of the foods is maintained, even in their bodies.

**Fish, vegetables and fruit can be served with either meat or dairy products** (but not both at the same time).

1. What does Kosher mean?

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2. How is an animal prepared before it is cooked and eaten?

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3. What foods cannot be eaten together?

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4. How are Jewish kitchens organised?

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5. Why are food laws important to Jewish people?

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**Homework 2**

**Due date:**

**Hanukkah**

**What is Hanukkah?**

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, begins on the evening of the 25th day of the Hebrew month called Kislev. In our calendar, this falls in the month of November or December.

Hanukkah means 'rededication' and reminds Jews of a miracle which took place in Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago...

King Antiochus of Syria was not a Jew, and he was very cruel and unkind to the Jewish people. He wanted the Jews to worship the Greek god Zeus, and wouldn't let them worship their own god at their temple in Jerusalem.



He then put up a statue of himself in the Jewish temple and the Jews were ordered to bow down before him. The Ten Commandments forbid Jews to worship statues or idols and so they refused.

This made the Jews very angry, and they decided to fight the Syrian King.

After three years, even though they were greatly outnumbered, they won their battle. But when they returned to their temple, they found that it was all but destroyed. So they had to rebuild and clean it in order to make it holy once again. They did this by re-lighting the temple's lamp called a Menorah. This lamp was really meant to burn all the time.

They could only find one jar of oil to light the flame, and this they thought would only last for one day. But instead it kept the lamp burning for eight days and nights. And so Hanukkah celebrates this miracle.

1. How long does Hanukkah last?

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2. What happens at Hanukkah?

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