

Religious Education Knowledge Organiser – Year 3



Judaism

How do festivals and family life show what matters to Jews?

Key Vocabulary

Judaism	The faith of the Jewish people.
Jew	A person who follows the faith of Judaism
Jewish	A way of describing someone who is a Jew. The 'Jewish' person.
Torah	The Jewish holy book.
Sabbath or Shabbat	The Jewish day of rest.
mezuzah	A special box for keeping prayers in.
kosher	Food that Jewish people can eat.
Rosh Hashanah	The Jewish new year festival. It is marked by blowing the 'shofar'
Yom Kippur	The most holy day in the Jewish calendar. It is a time of saying sorry to God. It is also sometimes called the 'Day of Atonement'
Passover	A festival celebrating the Israelites escape from Egypt
Seder Plate	A plate of food eaten during the Passover meal






Key Questions and Golden Nuggets

What does it mean to be Jewish?	Jewish people believe they are God's special people. Israel is the country of their heritage and is called the 'Promised Land' in the Torah. Jewish people believe they are all part of one big family even though they are spread all over the world. Jewish people follow rules in the Torah to honour God.
What is worth celebrating? What do Jewish families celebrate every week?	Shabbat reminds Jewish people that, in the creation story, God rests of the 7 th day and calls it holy. Jewish families celebrate Shabbat every week as a holy day of rest.
Why are Abraham and Moses significant to Jewish people?	Abraham is the founder of Judaism and Jewish people believe God made him a promise to make him the father of a nation and that his family would live in the Promised Land. Moses was given the Ten Commandments by God and Jewish people try to follow these rules to honour God.
Why do Jewish people celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur?	Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are Jewish festivals during the Autumn that celebrate the Jewish New Year. This is a time for self-reflection, repenting of bad behaviour and setting course to be good in the year ahead.
Why is Pesach important for Jews?	Pesach is a Jewish festival that marks the Exodus when Moses led the Jews out of Egypt and out of slavery. Pesach is celebrated with the seder plate.
Why are commandments and blessings important to Jewish people?	Part of the Torah is the 10 commandments. Jewish people believe that these were given to Moses by God and Jewish people still follow these rules today. Christians also believe that they should follow the 10 commandments.

Kosher

The Jewish holy book, known as the Torah, tells the Jews what foods they are allowed to eat and how to cook them. These allowed foods are called kosher. Some animals are not allowed as food. This includes pigs. To be kosher, an animal must be killed in a special way without suffering. Plants are kosher but only if they are free from pests. Jews never eat meat and dairy products together. This includes anything that comes from milk such as cheese or cream. Jews believe that these rules are given by god. It is important to Jews that they follow these rules when preparing and eating the food which they believe God gave.

1. I'm a Jew
2. My faith is called Judaism
3. I go to synagogue
4. I read the Torah
5. I believe in one God who I sometimes call HaShem



The Ten Commandments

Jewish people believe that Moses was given 10 commandments by God. Christians follow the same rules because they also believe Moses was given these rules by God.


1. Put God first
2. Praise and worship God
3. Keep God's name holy
4. Keep the Lord's day special
5. Obey your parents
6. Do not take another person's life
7. Love the one you marry
8. Don't steal
9. Tell the truth
10. Don't be jealous of what others have

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My name is Abraham. My claim to fame, I suppose, is that I helped to start the religion called Judaism. I lived 4,000 years ago in the country that you know as Iraq. Perhaps you could look it up on a map of the world later. The city I lived in was called Ur. I was so happy there but the people worshipped gods made of stone and gods of the moon and stars. I felt this was wrong. I believed there was only one God who had made the world and people and took care of everything. Over time I felt God, this special God, was telling me to leave Ur. I did leave with my wife and family. I did not know where we were going but I knew God was leading us. In the end, he led us to a country which, on your world map, is called Israel. In a dream I had God tell me that he would care for my children for ever. They would become God's chosen people. Wow. What a promise!



Moses

Hello everyone. My name is Moses. I was around hundreds of years after Abraham. You can read all my life story in the Bible in the Old Testament. Jewish people still remember me and see me as a great leader from the past. At that time, God's chosen people, called the Jews, were living in Egypt. They were being badly treated by the Egyptian ruler called Pharaoh. God chose me to rescue the Jews and lead them out of Egypt back to their own country which you know as Israel. This was a very hard challenge but, after a long time and with God's wonderful help, God's people were free. The journey was not easy and for a long, long time we wandered through the desert, often feeling lost and hungry. The people began to think that God wasn't looking after them. They began quarrelling, doing bad things and worshipping statues of stone. This made God angry and so he told me to go and speak to him at the top of a mountain. He gave me a set of rules that the Jews had to keep which are called the Ten Commandments. The people promised to really try to keep God's rules and in return God promised to take them safely to their own beautiful country. This was the country God had promised Abraham that his family would live in.

Jewish artefacts and symbols

- TALLITH**

A prayer shawl.
- KIPPAH**

Male prayer cap.
- MENORAH**

Seven-branched candlestick.
- YAD**

Pointer used when reading the Torah scroll.
- MEZUZAH**

A sacred scroll inscribed with prayers from the Torah.
- STAR OF DAVID**

The symbol of Judaism.
- TORAH**

Read in the Synagogue, it is the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.