

Religious Education Knowledge Organiser – Year 5



Judaism

Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people?

Key Vocabulary

Judaism	A religion.
Jew	Someone who believes in Judaism.
God	Jewish people believe in the same God as Christians and believe he created the world.
Torah	The first five books of the Jewish holy scriptures.
Tanakh	The whole Jewish scriptures including the Torah.
Sefer Torah	The Torah scrolls.
synagogue	Jewish place of worship.
mezuzah	a special box kept above the door.
Shema	a special Jewish prayer that many Jewish children learn.
tefillin	Boxes strapped to the non-dominant arm and forehead containing part of the Shema prayer.
Progressive Judaism	Progressive Jews adapt Judaism to modern life and interpret the Torah more freely.
Orthodox Judaism	Orthodox Jews who keep hold of the ancient traditions.

Skills

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 can we find out about Jewish communities in the Midlands and further afield?	Jewish people are in a minority in the UK and Jewish communities are more often found in large cities. There is great diversity within the Jewish faith but Jews may broadly identify as being 'Progressive' or 'Orthodox' in their beliefs.
What do Jews believe about God? How do Jews remember their beliefs about God?	Jews have many names for God which show their beliefs. Some Jews will spell God as 'G-d' so that it cannot be destroyed or erased. The Shema prayer reminds Jews of who God is and is hidden inside both the mezuzah and the tefillin.
What is a Sefer Torah? How is it used?	The Sefer Torah (Torah scrolls) is the whole collection of the Jewish Holy scriptures. It contains stories about the beginnings of Judaism and rules for living.
Are there particular laws that Jewish people need to follow?	The Sefer Torah (Torah scrolls) contain many different religious laws and commandments. Progressive Jews may follow these less strictly. Some of the rules include those about kosher food.
What happens during worship at a synagogue?	Worship at a synagogue differs depending on whether it is a Progressive or Orthodox synagogue. There are many differences but also lots of similarities.

Key Ideas

Big Story of the Torah

Creation	God creates a perfect world where he is in a perfect relationship with humanity.
The Fall	Adam and Even don't follow God's rules and they spoil their friendship with God. This story is also found in Genesis.
Patriarchs	Several men in one family line lead God's people. The family end up in Egypt and become slaves to the Egyptians.
Exodus	Moses becomes the leader of God's people and helps them escape from slavery in Egypt.
Conquest	God's people conquer the Promised Land called Israel and have a home and nation of their own. The people are called 'Israelites' or sometimes 'Jews'.
Judges	God appoints judges to lead His people.
Kings and Prophets	God's people aren't happy with having Judges and ask for a King like the other countries. God lets them have a king. God wants to fix his friendship with humans so he asks prophets to tell the people the right thing to do. People continue to disobey. The Israelites go through phases of good and bad leadership from their Kings. The Kingdom of Israel is then conquered by different empires.
Silence	Prophets foretell of a coming king who will rescue the Israelites from being under the rule of other kingdoms. There is a period where nothing new is heard from God and the people wait for hundreds of years for this coming Messiah who will come to save them.
Waiting	The Jewish people are waiting now for their coming Messiah.

TORAH



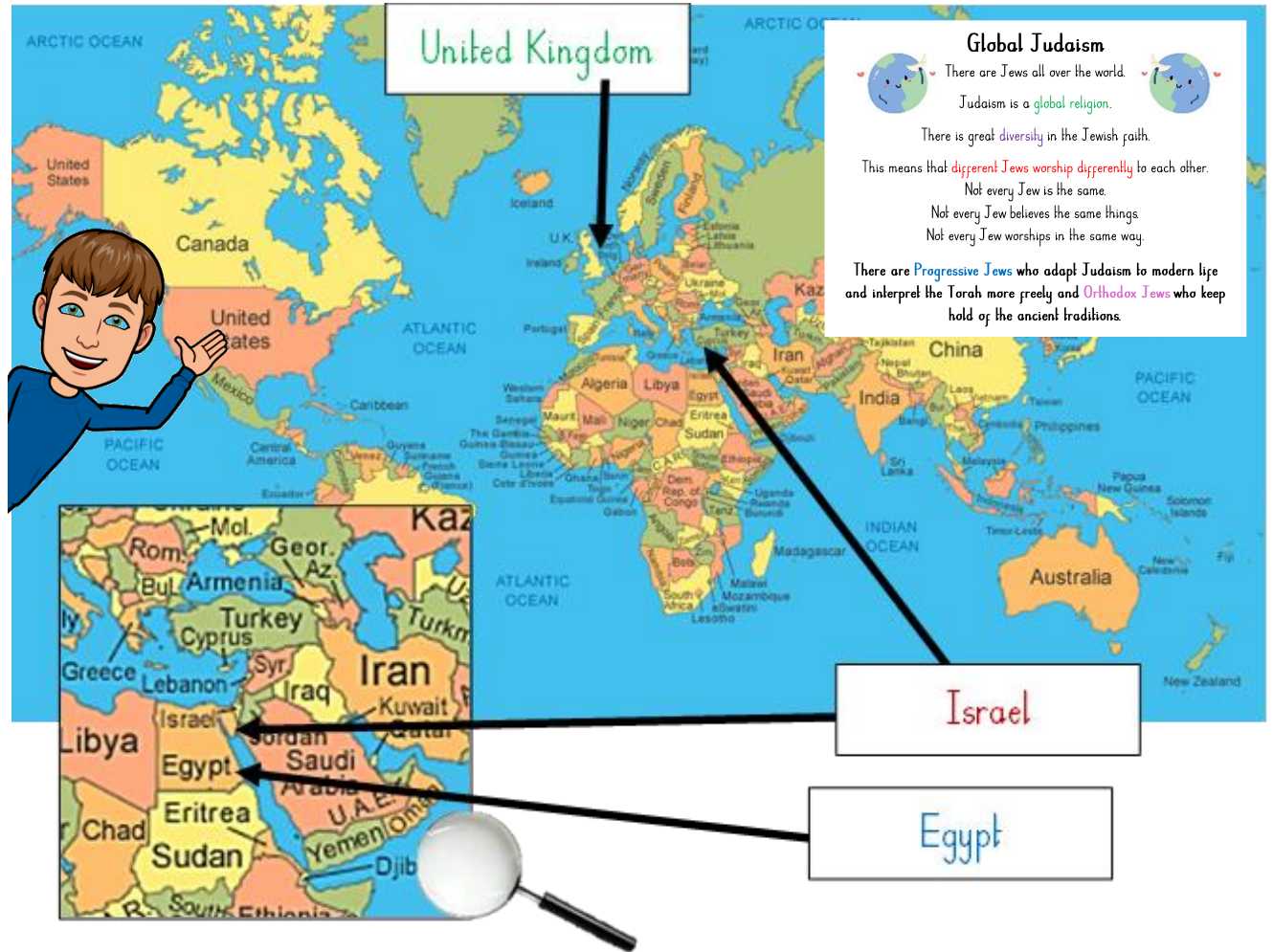
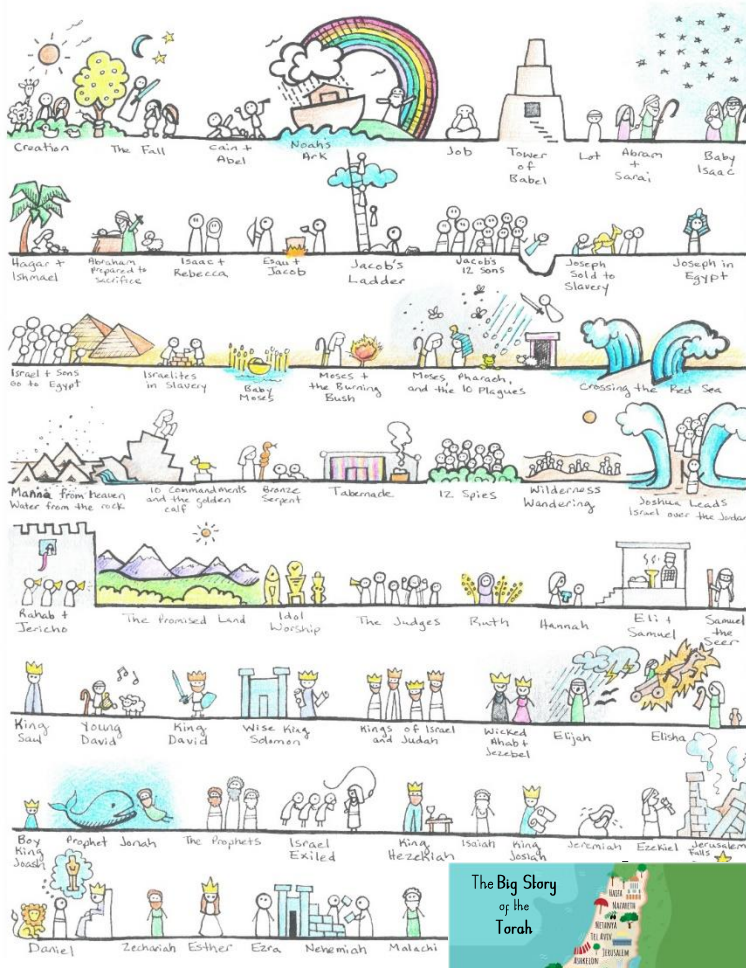
Have you noticed the Big Story of the Torah is the same as the Big Story of the Old Testament in the Bible? Judaism and Christianity are both 'Abrahamic' religions. They both trace themselves back to Abraham. Christians think Jesus was the Messiah that the Jews were waiting for. Most Jews believe the Messiah has not yet come.

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The little boxes contain parts of the Shema prayer. The tefillin is placed on your non-dominant arm and on your head and then a hand placed over your eyes. The tefillin is used by Jewish men during their weekday morning prayers. It signifies 'binding the words of God as a sign on your hand and between your eyes'. It is a physical reminder to keep God's teaching in mind. Tefillin functions for Jewish people almost in the same way that putting on a wedding ring remind someone of their relationship and commitment to their husband/wife. It is a reminder of their relationship with God and their commitment to his ways.