

World Religions | Judaism | RE | Years 5 & 6 | 2021-22

Key Question

What does it mean to make a promise?

Interesting facts

Judaism is the **oldest** of the world's four **monotheistic** religions (belief in one God and that he created the universe).

People who follow Judaism are known as **Jews** or the **Jewish people**.

The **Torah** shows how God wants Jews to live and contains 613 laws / rules to be followed, including the Ten Commandments. It is kept in an **Ark** (special wooden cabinet) in the synagogue. The Torah is not touched directly as it is considered too Holy; instead a pointer (**Yad**) is used.

The Jewish calendar is a **lunar calendar** so follows the cycle of the Moon.

Significant Jewish artefacts include: **Menorah** (a seven-branched candelabrum); **Star of David** (after King David of ancient Israel); **Mezuzah** (a scroll of parchment with words from the Torah in a decorative case attached to doorposts in Jewish homes); and **Yarmulke and Talit** (a skullcap and prayer shawl worn during worship).

Orthodox Jews believe the Torah should be followed closely and that it is important to continue ancient Jewish traditions. **Reform Jews** believe that Judaism should be modernised, for example, men and women sitting together during worship and allowing women to be Rabbis.

Key People

Abraham Considered to be the father of the Jewish people. He founded Judaism in Israel in c. 2000 BC.

Moses A Jewish prophet who led the Jewish people out of Egypt and across the Red Sea (Exodus). He received the Ten Commandments from God on Mount Sinai and is credited with writing the Torah.

Key Vocabulary

Promise A declaration that one will do something or that a particular thing will happen.

Commandment A divine rule.

Sacred Connected to a god and dedicated to a religious purpose.

Rabbi A Jewish teacher.

Synagogue The Jewish religious building; a place of prayer, worship, study, learning and community.

Torah The Jewish Holy book/scrolls comprising the first five books of the Hebrew Bible; written in Hebrew.

Key religious dates / festivals

Shabbat The Jewish day of rest. Begins at dusk on Friday and lasts until one hour after sunset on Saturday.

Rosh Hashanah The Jewish New Year.

Yom Kippur Day of Atonement. a day to reflect on the past year and ask God's forgiveness for sins.

Sukkot A week long celebration of the Autumn season where thanks is given.

Hanukkah The Festival of Lights lasting 7-8 days.

Pesach Or 'Passover'. A celebration of the story of Exodus.

Shavuot Marks the day the Torah was given to the Jewish people.