

World Religions | Judaism | RE | Years 5 & 6 | 2023-24

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 on 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.

Key Learning: Was Jesus the Messiah?

- 1 What promise did God make to the Jewish people?**

Complete 'Thought Shower' to collect initial thoughts and understanding about Judaism. Learn when Judaism began and retrieve key facts from prior learning in KS1. God promised Abraham land and many descendants if he did what he told him to do. This was to check if he would obey him. Role play a promise being made and the reaction expected if someone doesn't keep their promise. Discuss own examples of important promises.
- 2 How do the Ten Commandments relate to the life of a Jew?**

Recap question: Who was Moses? Explain Judaism has a shared history with Christianity and Islam. Read the story of Moses and the Mountain. Discuss each of the commandments and what it would mean for somebody trying to follow them. Rank the commandments from most to least important, in own opinion and explain choices made.
- 3 Which artefacts are important in Judaism?**

Study Jewish artefacts and discuss what they think it is used for and why it is important to the Jewish faith. Reveal each of the items uses and significance for Jews, including: Synagogue (overview only), Torah, Menorah, The Star of David, Yarmulke and Tallit, and the Mezuzah. Reflect on learning by drawing an item of personal importance and explain why it is important.
- 4 How does a Jew celebrate Shabbat?**

Pass around a spice box containing sweet-smelling spices. The practice of handing around spices symbolises the sweetness of Shabbat which Jews take into the new week. Discuss those things we hold to be most valuable in their lives. Shared read and use images to explore the main practices of Shabbat. Watch video (BBC Teach 'Shabbat, the Jewish day of rest'). Write a 'Shabbat diary' as if they were a Jewish person. Reflect: Is it a good idea to have one special day in the week?
- 5 What are the similarities and differences between Reform and Orthodox Judaism?**

Explain key facts about Synagogues, including the differences between those of Reform Jews and Orthodox Jews. Take a virtual tour of an Orthodox Synagogue. Use this knowledge to make comparisons to a Reform Synagogue/practices. Complete a table to explain some similarities between Reform and Orthodox beliefs and practices at their respective synagogues.
- 6 What notable dates are in the Jewish religious year?**

Recap special dates and celebrations in the Christian calendar and other world religions. The Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar and includes the following notable days: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Hanukkah, Pesach, Shavuot. Record on a calendar wheel and compare Jewish religious dates to Christian dates Plenary: Complete 'Closing Thought Shower' to demonstrate learning during this unit.