



Judaism was founded by Abraham over 4,000 years ago.

Jews believe in one God, like Christians and Muslims do.

Judaism teaches that all life is special and belongs to God. Jews believe that God is the Creator of all life.



Synagogue (Outside)



Synagogue (inside)



The Torah is a 'map of life' which provides guidance for the journey of life. It is kept in the Ark of a synagogue, a very sacred place. It is a scroll which is handwritten by scribes and must not be touched by human hand.

Jewish people are led in their worship by a rabbi. Rabbi means 'teacher' in Hebrew.



Rabbi

In the Jewish community, a rabbi is viewed not only as a spiritual leader but as a counsellor, a role model and an educator. Education of the young is, in fact, the principle role of a rabbi.

Rabbis conduct ceremonies, such as weddings and barmitzva's or batmitzva's. These are very special services when Jewish boys and girls become adults.

In some branches of Judaism, both men and women can be rabbis. In others, only a man can be a rabbi.



Ark  
The Ark is a cupboard in which the Torah scrolls are kept.



Siddur  
This is the main prayer book.



Torah Scrolls  
The scrolls contain the words of the Hebrew Bible.



Memorial Boards  
These are boards full of name plates. Each name plate remembers someone who has died.

Important Features of a Jewish Synagogue



Bimah  
A raised platform where most of the service takes place. The Torah readings happen here.



Important Features of a Jewish Synagogue

The Eternal Light  
This hangs above the Ark and is always burning to remind everyone that God is always with them.

Men and women usually sit separately in the Synagogues

Men are required to cover their heads. In most cases worship takes place in Hebrew.

Jewish Artifacts





Passover is a Jewish festival. Jews celebrate the Feast of Passover to remember how Moses led his people from Egypt.

Many years ago, Moses' people were slaves. God didn't like this and wanted them to be free. He told Moses to speak to the King of Egypt (Pharaoh) to ask if they could go free. The Pharaoh refused. Moses warned him that God would not be happy. Moses was right. God was angry and He sent ten plagues as a punishment.



### What Are Some Jewish Holidays?

#### Shabbat (Sabbath)

From Friday sunset until Saturday nightfall, Jewish people take a special day of rest, known as the Shabbat.

Jews remember that God created the world and on the seventh day he rested. Jews believe God's day of rest was a Saturday. On this day, Jews visit the synagogue as part of their celebration.

Sabbath candles are lit at sunset on Friday and placed into candlesticks. Then, families drink wine from a special goblet called the Kiddush Cup and eat challah (a soft, plaited bread).

Shabbat is a time without television, phones, shopping, cleaning or cooking.

#### Did You Know...?

You can say 'Shabbat Shalom' to wish someone a happy Shabbat.

During Shabbat, Jewish people take time out from the busy workweek to light candles, eat a delicious meal with family and friends, perhaps attend services at the synagogue or just go for a long, leisurely walk

The High Holidays are Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashana. Rosh Hashana is the Jewish New Year and is a joyous celebration. It marks the anniversary of the creation of the world. Rosh Hashana begins a 10-day period called the High Holy Days, or the Days of Awe, that ends on Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur is the holiest day in Judaism. On this day, Jews are forgiven for their sins against God, and they ask for forgiveness from people they have wronged.

Word	Definition
Synagogue	A synagogue is a place of worship for people of the Jewish religion.
Rabbi	a person educated in Jewish law and able to lead a Jewish congregation.
Siddur	is a Jewish prayer book. It has a set order of a list of Jewish prayers and blessings.
Torah	a scroll containing the first five books of the Jewish Bible that is used in religious services
Shabbat	Sabbath is the day of the week set aside for worship and rest. The Jewish Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday and lasts until sunset on Saturday.
Commandments	one of ten rules given by God that are mentioned in the Bible.
Seder plate	The Seder plate holds a roasted egg, which is a sign of new life; bitter herbs to remind us of the ancient Jews' hard lives; parsley to represent spring (which we dip in salt water depicting Jewish people's tears); charoset, a sweet mixture of apples and honey that represents the mortar used by the slaves; a shank bone