Discovering Judaism with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand key beliefs, symbols, and traditions within the Jewish faith.

Read the passage carefully. Use the information in the text to answer the questions that follow. Write in full sentences.

Ellie the elephant loves learning about different faiths. Today, she is reading about Judaism, one of the oldest religions in the world. She discovers that Jewish people worship one God and follow teachings found in a holy book called the Torah. The Torah is written on a long scroll and is read aloud in a synagogue, which is the Jewish place of worship.

Ellie learns that Friday evening marks the start of Shabbat, a special day of rest. Families might light candles and share a meal together to celebrate. Another important symbol is the Menorah, a candle holder used during the festival of Hanukkah.

Ellie notices that many Jewish traditions focus on kindness and helping others. Whether it is wearing a kippah—a small cap worn on the head—or celebrating a Bar or Bat Mitzvah when a child becomes an adult in the faith, these customs help people feel connected to their community and their history. Ellie thinks it is wonderful how these traditions bring families together.

Word bank: Synagogue · Torah · Shabbat · Menorah · Tradition

1. What is the name of the holy book in Judaism and how is it written? (2 marks)

2. Where do Jewish people go to worship? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think families light candles and share a meal during Shabbat? (2 marks)

4. How does wearing a kippah or celebrating a Mitzvah help a person feel connected to others? (2 marks)

5. In your opinion, why is it important for people to have traditions? Use an example from the text to explain your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a Menorah and a Torah scroll, labelling them clearly.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Ellie. Write a short diary entry explaining one thing you found most interesting about Judaism and why.