

A Journey into Jewish Traditions

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

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below using full sentences. Use your best handwriting and ensure your answers are backed by evidence from the text.

Judaism is one of the world's oldest religions, focusing on the belief in one God. For Jewish people, the Torah is their most sacred text, containing the laws and teachings that guide their lives. These scrolls are kept in a special cabinet called an Ark within a synagogue, which serves as a place for prayer, study, and community gathering. A leader known as a Rabbi often guides the congregation and interprets these ancient teachings.

One of the most important weekly practices is Shabbat, the day of rest. Starting at sundown on Friday and ending on Saturday evening, families come together to share a meal, light candles, and reflect on the week. It is a peaceful time away from daily work. Many Jewish men and boys choose to wear a small cap called a kippah as a sign of respect for God. Another well-known symbol is the menorah, a seven-branched candelabra used in worship. Through these traditions and celebrations, Jewish people maintain a strong connection to their history and their faith, passing their customs down to the next generation with great care.

Word bank: Synagogue · Torah · Shabbat · Rabbi · Kippah · Menorah

1. Where is the Torah kept when it is not being read? (1 mark)

2. What are the time boundaries for the period of Shabbat? (2 marks)

3. Why might a Jewish person choose to wear a kippah? (2 marks)

4. What does the passage suggest about the role of the synagogue in the community? (2 marks)

5. Why do you think it is important for families to have a dedicated day of rest like Shabbat? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a table set for Shabbat, including two candles, a challah bread, and a menorah. Label each item you have drawn.



Extension challenge: Research the festival of Hanukkah. Write a short paragraph explaining why the menorah is particularly important during this festival, compared to its use in a synagogue.