

Exploring Judaism: A Fact-File with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To identify and describe key beliefs, practices, and symbols within Judaism, understanding their significance to Jewish people.

Ellie the Elephant has been reading about world religions and wants to learn more about Judaism. Use your research skills or class notes to complete this fact-file. Write clearly and ensure you explain why each aspect is important to the faith.

Word bank: Torah · Synagogue · Shabbat · Menorah · Kippah · Mitzvot · Covenant · Kosher

1. The Sacred Text: What is the Torah? Explain what it is, where it is kept in a synagogue, and why it is treated with such great respect. (3 marks)

2. The Day of Rest: Describe Shabbat. When does it begin and end, and what are some of the traditions Jewish families follow during this time? (3 marks)

3. Key Symbols: Choose two symbols of Judaism (such as the Menorah or the Kippah). Describe each one and explain its meaning or purpose. (4 marks)

4. Living the Faith: What are 'Mitzvot'? Provide an example of how a Jewish person might perform a Mitzvah in their daily life. (2 marks)

5. Reflective Thought: Why do you think having a specific place of worship, like a synagogue, is important for a community? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are visiting a synagogue. Write a short diary entry from the perspective of someone exploring the building for the first time, noting the special features you see and how they reflect the beliefs of the Jewish community.