The Traditions of Judaism: A Journey with Ellie

Learning objective: To identify and explain the significance of key symbols, customs, and sacred texts within the Jewish faith.

Ellie the elephant has been visiting a local community centre to learn about Judaism. She has gathered a collection of important terms, but she needs your help to sort them correctly. Read each description and match it to the correct term from the word bank. Then, use your knowledge to answer the deeper thinking questions below.

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

1. 1. This is the sacred scroll containing the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. What is it called, and why is it treated with such great respect? (2 marks)

2. 2. Explain why a Jewish family might prepare a special meal on Friday evening to welcome Shabbat. What does this day represent in their faith? (2 marks)

3. 3. Compare and contrast the purpose of a Synagogue with other places of worship you have studied. How does the community use this space? (2 marks)

4. 4. Justify your answer: Why is wearing a Kippah considered an important act of devotion for many Jewish men? (2 marks)

5. 5. What might happen if a community did not follow the dietary laws of Kashrut (Kosher)? Explain the significance of these rules in daily life. (2 marks)

6. 6. Reflecting on the Menorah, explain the symbolism of the light it provides during the festival of Hanukkah. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene inside a Synagogue, ensuring you include a representation of the Torah scroll and the Eternal Light (Ner Tamid) hanging above it.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Ellie the elephant. Write a short diary entry describing what you learned today about the importance of community and tradition in Judaism. Use at least four words from the word bank in your writing.