

Learning About Judaism with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To identify key beliefs and practices within Judaism.

Read the text carefully. Use the word bank if you need help with the meanings. Answer the questions in the spaces provided. You can do it!

Ellie the Elephant loves to learn about how people around the world live. Today, she is learning about Judaism. Jewish people believe in one God. Their holy book is called the Torah. It is written on a scroll and kept in a special cupboard in a building called a synagogue.

One very important time for Jewish families is Shabbat. This is the Jewish day of rest. It starts when the sun goes down on Friday and ends on Saturday evening. During Shabbat, families often share a special meal with braided bread called challah. They light candles and spend time talking together.

Another symbol you might see is the Menorah. It is a candle holder with spots for nine candles. It is used during a festival called Hanukkah. Jewish people also follow special food rules. For example, they do not eat pork. Ellie thinks it is wonderful to learn about different traditions. She remembers that every religion has special stories and customs that bring people together in peace.

Word bank: Synagogue: A Jewish place of worship. · Torah: The holy book of Judaism. · Shabbat: The day of rest, from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. · Menorah: A candle holder used during festivals.

1. What is the name of the holy book used in Judaism? (2 marks)

2. When does Shabbat start and finish? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Jewish families stop working during Shabbat? (2 marks)

4. What does the text suggest about how Jewish families feel about their traditions? (2 marks)

5. Why is it important to learn about religions that are different from your own? Give one reason. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a table set for Shabbat. Include the braided bread (challah) and two candles.



Extension challenge: Find out the name of one Jewish festival and write one sentence about how it is celebrated.