

Exploring Traditions: A Journey through Judaism with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the significance of key symbols, rituals, and sacred texts within the Jewish faith, reflecting on their meaning for believers.

Ellie the elephant has been visiting a local synagogue and learning about Jewish life. She has gathered a collection of important terms and concepts, but she has mixed them up! Your task is to correctly categorise these items into three groups: 'Sacred Texts & Objects', 'Festivals & Celebrations', and 'Worship & Community'. Once you have sorted them, use the deeper thinking questions to explore the meaning behind these traditions.

Word bank: Torah · Shabbat · Synagogue · Hanukkah · Menorah · Rabbi · Kippah · Pesach · Ten Commandments

1. Sort the items from the word bank into the three categories mentioned in the instructions. Provide a brief definition for why each item belongs in its category. (6 marks)

2. Explain why the Torah is considered the most sacred object in a synagogue. What does the way it is handled tell us about its importance to the community? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the meaning of Shabbat with a regular day of the week. Why is 'rest' considered a holy act in Judaism? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If a synagogue were to lose its Torah scroll, why would this be a significant event for the congregation? (3 marks)

5. What might happen if a community stopped celebrating festivals like Pesach? How do these traditions help maintain identity and history? (4 marks)

6. Create a brief 'welcome guide' for a visitor to a synagogue. What three pieces of advice would you give them to show respect for the customs and the sacred space? (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed diagram of a Menorah or a Torah scroll, ensuring you label the key features you have learned about.



Extension challenge: Research the 'Mitzvot' (commandments). Write a persuasive paragraph explaining how performing acts of 'Tikkun Olam' (repairing the world) positively impacts both the individual and the wider society.