

Exploring Judaism: Key Beliefs and Traditions

Learning objective: To understand the core tenets, sacred texts, and significant practices within the Jewish faith.

Review these flashcards to strengthen your knowledge of Judaism. Use the deeper thinking questions to reflect on how these practices shape the lives of believers.

Torah

The most holy book in Judaism, containing the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, often written on a parchment scroll.

Synagogue

A place of worship and assembly for the Jewish community, often used for prayer, study, and social gatherings.

Shabbat

The Jewish Sabbath, a day of rest and spiritual enrichment observed from Friday evening to Saturday evening.

Mitzvah

A commandment or a moral deed performed as a religious duty. The plural is Mitzvot.

Rabbi

A religious leader, teacher, or scholar who is qualified to interpret Jewish law and lead the community.

Kosher

Food that satisfies the requirements of Jewish dietary laws (kashrut), such as avoiding pork and not mixing meat with dairy.

Menorah

A sacred candelabrum with seven or nine branches used during religious festivals, notably Hanukkah.

Covenant

A solemn agreement or promise between God and the Jewish people, traditionally beginning with Abraham.

Tenakh

The Hebrew Bible, which includes the Torah, the Prophets (Nevi'im), and the Writings (Ketuvim).

Hanukkah

The Festival of Lights, which commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.