

Exploring the Traditions of Judaism: A Fact-File with Ellie

Learning objective: To identify and explain the significance of key beliefs, holy books, and practices within Judaism.

Join Ellie the Elephant on a journey of discovery! Use your classroom resources or library books to research the Jewish faith. Carefully complete each section of this fact-file to demonstrate your understanding of Jewish traditions. Think deeply about why these practices are important to the community.

Word bank: Torah · Synagogue · Rabbi · Shabbat · Mitzvah · Menorah · Covenant · Kosher

1. The Sacred Text: Identify the primary holy book of Judaism and explain its significance to the Jewish community. (3 marks)

2. Places of Worship: Describe the role of the Synagogue in Jewish life. What activities take place there? (2 marks)

3. Shabbat: Explain what Shabbat is, when it occurs, and why it is considered a time of peace and reflection. (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: How does a Jewish place of worship differ from a place of worship you are familiar with? Consider layout or symbols. (4 marks)

5. Explain why the concept of a 'Mitzvah' is central to living a good life according to Jewish teachings. (3 marks)

6. Justify your answer: Why do you think it is important for religious communities to maintain traditions and rituals over thousands of years? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are writing a letter to a friend explaining the importance of the Menorah during Hanukkah. Include a description of the object and the history it represents. What might happen if a community lost its connection to these ancient symbols?