Exploring the Synagogue with Ellie

Learning objective: To identify and understand the significance of key features found within a Jewish place of worship, the synagogue.

Ellie the elephant has been learning about how Jewish people worship. Use the word bank to label the important features of a synagogue in your drawing. Make sure your illustrations are respectful and clear.

Draw: Draw the interior of a synagogue. Include a raised platform (the Bimah) in the centre. On one wall, draw a decorative cabinet (the Aron Kodesh) with a small, glowing lamp (the Ner Tamid) hanging above it. Include a scroll (the Torah) on the Bimah with a small pointer (the Yad) resting beside it. Use a calm and respectful style, focusing on the details of the furniture and the light.

Label words: Aron Kodesh · Ner Tamid · Bimah · Torah Scroll · Yad

Steps:

1. Why do you think the Ner Tamid is kept alight constantly in the synagogue?
2. What is the name of the special pointer used to read the Torah, and why is it used?
3. Where is the Aron Kodesh located, and what is its purpose?
4. Describe the Bimah. Why is it often in the centre of the room?
5. List two activities that take place inside a synagogue.