

RE – Judaism – Who is Jewish and what do they believe?



Key Vocabulary

Torah	The Torah is the special book for Jewish people. It is handwritten on a scroll, kept in a special place in the synagogue (Ark) and never touched by hands, but with a pointer called a Yad. The Torah guides Jewish people on how to live.
God	The being that Jewish people believe created everything.
Ark	A special cupboard to place the Torah. This is found in a synagogue
Synagogue	A special place of worship for Jewish people.
Mezuzah	The Mezuzah is a special box with a prayer inside it. The Mezuzah is put on the door. When Jewish people go in and out of their door they touch the Mezuzah .
Hanukkah	The Jewish Festival of Lights.
Shabbat	A special day of the week for Jewish people. It is a day of rest.
Sukkot	A harvest festival for Jewish people
Passover/ Pesach	A celebration for Jewish people to remember their ancestors leaving slavery.

Key Information

- The Shema is an important Jewish prayer which declares the Jewish belief that there is only one God. 'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord'. The words are spoken in the evening and morning prayer.
- The story of Hanukkah is a festival that reminds Jews of a time over 2500 years ago when a Syrian king, tried to make the Jewish people worship Greek gods. Hanukkah is celebrated by lighting one candle on the Hanukiah (a nine stemmed candelabrum) each day. The Hanukiah symbolises how God looked after the Jewish people at this difficult time.
- Pesach means Passover, this is one of the most important religious festivals in the Jewish calendar. Jews celebrate the Feast of Passover to remember the freedom of the Children of Israel who were led out of Egypt by Moses.

