

RE Knowledge Organiser: What is it like to grow up in a religious community?

KPI: Know and understand religious practices. Judaism
Some background information:

Judaism began around 4000 years ago in the area now known as the Middle East.

Judaism developed gradually over time but one of the key people linked with the origins of **Judaism** was a man named **Abraham**.

Followers of **Judaism** are called **Jews**.

Jews believe in one eternal God (God has always and will always exist).

Jews believe they have a **covenant** (agreement) with God that if they follow God's rules God will protect and look after them.

The Jewish place of worship is called the **synagogue**.

The Jewish holy book is called the **Torah** which is written on a scroll. The **Torah** is written in **Hebrew**.

Abraham and the Covenant

The **Torah** says that God asks **Abraham** to do certain things, in return for which he will take special care of them. This agreement is called the **covenant**.

The **Torah** says that God promised to make **Abraham** the father of a great people and said that **Abraham** and his descendants (offspring) must obey God. In return God would guide them and protect them and give them the land of Israel.

Jewish men are **circumcised** as a symbol of this **covenant**. **Circumcision** is the removal of the foreskin of the penis.

According to the **Torah** (Genesis 17: 9-14), **Abraham** was commanded by God to circumcise himself, all male members of his household, his descendants and slaves in an everlasting **covenant**.

In the **Torah** it says *"You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you."* Genesis 17



| Key Terms | Definitions |
|-----------|--|
| Covenant | An agreement/promise |
| Synagogue | Jewish place of worship |
| Judaism | One of the five main world religions |
| Abraham | Can be referred to as the founder of Judaism |

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Brit Milah

- Most often the **Brit Milah** is held at the family's home but some people prefer it to be done in a **synagogue**.
- The ritual is performed by a **mohel** (circumciser) on the **eighth** day after the boy's birth unless there are medical reasons to prevent it happening.
- It is required that the father and **mohel** must be present but it's usual for other family members to participate too.
- **Blessings** are recited and a drop or two of wine is placed in the child's mouth. He is given his official **Hebrew** name.
- Baby girls are given their names in the synagogue on the **Sabbath** (Saturday) day after their birth.

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Bar Mitzvah

- A Jewish boy becomes **Bar Mitzvah** at the age of 13.
- **Bar Mitzvah** means 'son of the commandments'.
- On the **Sabbath** (Saturday) after his thirteenth birthday, a boy recites the blessing on the **Torah** before it is read in the **synagogue**.
- Some boys may read a passage from the **Torah**.
- Friends and relatives will often come to the service, and there may be a celebration meal afterwards.
- Once he has reached the age of **Bar Mitzvah** a Jewish boy is counted as a man and is expected to follow all Jewish laws.



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Bat Mitzvah

- A Jewish girl automatically becomes **Bat Mitzvah** at the age of 12.
- **Bat Mitzvah** means 'daughter of the commandments'.
- Not all orthodox synagogues have special services to celebrate **Bat Mitzvahs**.
- If they do, they are held on a Sunday not the **Sabbath** (Saturday).
- Girls do not read from the **Torah** in an Orthodox **synagogue**.
- In a Reform **synagogue**, there is no difference between the services held for boys and girls.
- A party for family and friends is usually held after the service.





R.E: JUDAISM - MOSES KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Overview

- Moses was a religious leader, lawgiver and prophet, who is considered to be the most important prophet in Judaism.
- Those who follow Christianity and Islam also see him as an important prophet.
- Moses is believed to have led the Exodus of Hebrews from Egypt, saving his people.
- After this, it is believed that Moses was given the Ten Commandments by God.
- Jews believe that Moses lived until age 120, but died before reaching the Land of Israel.



Moses Receives the Ten Commandments

Receiving the Commandments

- After leaving Egypt, Moses and the Hebrews went to the desert in Sinai.
- They set up camp at the foot of Mount Sinai.
- On the third day, they heard thunder and lightning, a thick cloud appeared above the mountain, and a trumpet sounded.
- Moses led the people out of the camp and to the foot of the mountain.
- The whole of the mountain was soon covered in smoke.
- The people trembled in fear, but Moses spoke to God.
- God answered in thunder, and called Moses to the top of the mountain.

The Commandments

- "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt where you were slaves.
1. Worship no god but me.
 2. Do not bow down to any idol or worship it.
 3. Do not use my name for evil purposes.
 4. Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.
 5. Respect your father and your mother.
 6. Do not commit murder.
 7. Do not commit adultery
 8. Do not steal.
 9. Do not accuse anyone falsely.
 10. Do not desire anything that another owns."

Recording the Commandments

- The ten commandments were written on two stone tablets, which Moses brought down from Mount Sinai.
- They were placed in a special wooden chest called the Ark of Covenant.
- About 300 years later, King David brought the Ark to Jerusalem.

Key Vocabulary

- Moses
- Judaism
- Jews
- Hebrew
- Prophet
- Plagues
- Egypt
- Exodus
- Ten Commandments
- Pesach
- Passover
- Seder Meal
- Unleavened

The Exodus from Egypt



Context

- The ancestors of the Jews were called the Hebrews.
- There was famine where the Hebrews lived, so they moved to Egypt.
- As the Hebrew population grew, the Egyptians felt threatened.
- The Pharaoh persecuted the Hebrews, and made them work as slaves.
- He then ordered that baby boys born to the slaves were to be drowned in the River Nile.
- One Hebrew mother hid her son in a basket in the bulrushes at the edge of the Nile.
- The baby was found by the Pharaoh's daughter, who took pity on him.
- She adopted the boy, and gave him a Hebrew name – Moses.

The Exodus

- As a young man, Moses killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and ran away into the desert. He married Zipporah and they had a son.
- One day, near Mount Sinai, God spoke to him from a burning bush.
- God told Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt. He told him that he would help him.
- Moses asked the Pharaoh to let his people go, but he refused.
- So, God sent ten plagues to the Egyptians (see the information on the right).
- The Hebrews protected themselves by smearing lamb/goat blood on their doorposts.
- After the Pharaoh's son was killed, he let the Hebrews go, and Moses led them away.
- The Pharaoh's grief turned to anger, and he ordered his men to chase the Hebrews.
- The Hebrews were helped by God parting the Red Sea to allow them to cross.



The Plagues

- Here are the ten plagues that God sent to the Egyptians:
1. The River Nile turned to blood.
 - 2, 3, 4. Plagues of frogs, gnats and flies.
 5. Animals became diseased.
 6. Humans and animals were covered in boils.
 7. There was a terrible hailstorm.
 8. There was a plague of locusts.
 9. Darkness came over the land.
 10. The angel of death killed first-borns.

The Festival of Pesach

- Pesach celebrates the Exodus from Egypt.
- It is also called Passover, as the Angel of Death 'passed over' the Hebrew houses.
- For Pesach, houses are thoroughly cleaned and only unleavened bread can be eaten.
- The most important feature of the festival is the Seder meal. It consists of a roasted shankbone of lamb (remembering the sacrificed lambs), a roasted egg (symbol of freedom), parsley, lettuce, bitter herbs (reminder of bitterness of slavery) and haroset (a sweet, sticky paste – reminder of freedom).

Personal Spirituality – Key Questions

Who are important people in your life?

What makes them important?

What does it mean to feel uprooted or displaced?

Have you ever felt uprooted or displaced?

What celebratory meals do you eat in your own life?

What makes these meals special?

Why are rules important in society?

What would life be like without any rules?

How do you feel about rules?