

# Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people?

## What you've learnt already

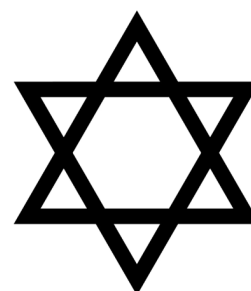
- The Torah is the holy text in Judaism.
- Celebrations of the Judaism faith (Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, Passover, Shabbat)
- How Jewish people ask for forgiveness and repentance.
- A synagogue is the holy place for Jewish people.

## Choices

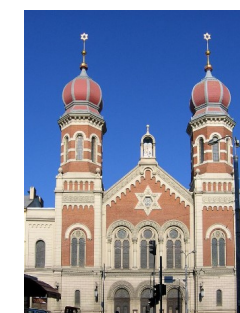
- Why might people want to choose orthodox/ progressive Judaism over the other? Is it okay to do so?
- Which would you choose?
- How could you show respect to Judaism?

## Key Vocabulary

Ark	A decorative cabinet which holds the sacred
Hebrew	Ancient language spoken by and written by the Jewish people.
Hechsher	A mark/symbol on packaging which shows a food is Kosher.
Kosher	Something which matches the requirements of Jewish law (usually food).
Mezuzah	A piece of parchment in a decorative case with Hebrew verses of the Torah inside. Attached to
Orthodox	Following the traditions of a religion.
Progressive	Following some traditions of a religion, but developing in stages.
Rabbi	A Jewish scholar or teacher, appointed as a Jewish religious leader.
Reform	Following some traditions of a religion, but developing in stages.
Shema	A Jewish prayer - thought to be the most important prayer in Judaism.
Synagogue	The holy place of worship for Jews.
Torah	The holy text in Judaism.
Trefah	A word used to describe things that are forbidden in the Jewish faith (usually around food).
Worship	A form of religious practice with rituals.



## Artefacts and Symbols



## Similarities to other religions

Christianity - the first 5 books of the Bible (or the Old Testament) make up the Torah (along with additional books/stories).

Islam - the holy text is treated with the utmost respect.

## Key Knowledge

### Make sense of belief:

- Identify and explain Jewish beliefs about God
- Give examples of some texts that say what God is like and explain how Jewish people interpret them

### Understand the impact:

- Make clear connections between Jewish beliefs about the Torah and how Jews use and treat it
- Make clear connections between Jewish commandments and how Jews live (e.g. in relation to kosher laws)
- Give evidence and examples to show how Jewish people put their beliefs into practice in different ways (e.g. some differences between Orthodox and Progressive Jewish practice)

### Make connections:

- Make connections between Jewish beliefs studied and explain how and why they are important to Jewish people today
- Consider and weigh up the value of e.g. tradition, ritual, community, study and worship in the lives of Jews today, and articulate responses on how far they are valuable to people who are not Jewish.

## Lesson Sequence

L1	Find out about Jewish communities in Bolton and further afield.
L2	Understand what Jews believe about God and how they remember their beliefs.
L3	Find out what a Sefer Torah is and how it is used.
L4	Understand the laws that Jewish people need to follow.
L5	Find out what happens at a synagogue.

# Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people?

<p>How is the Torah treated? Why is it treated this way?</p>	<p>True or false? <i>Women cannot be rabbis.</i></p>	<p>Why do Jewish people have a Mezuzah? What do they do with it?</p>	<p>Why do some Jewish people write 'G-d'?</p>
<p>What sort of an outlook would a Jewish person have if they prayed the Adon Olam everyday?</p>	<p>What names do Jewish people use for God?</p>	<p>Why do Jewish people say blessings?</p>	<p>If something is not classed as 'Kosher', then it is classed as _____.</p>
<p>What does the Shema prayer show about how Jews respect God?</p>	<p>How is Judaism similar to other religions?</p>	<p>Where was Moses when he received the commandments from God?</p>	<p>Are there any particular laws that Jewish people need to follow?</p>
<p>What happens during worship at a synagogue?</p>	<p>How many books from the Bible make up the Torah?</p>	<p>What items could you put on a 'Kosher' dinner plate?</p>	<p>List as many differences between orthodox and progressive Judaism/synagogues as you can.</p>

One Point

Two Points

Three Points

Four Points

# Answers

<p>How is the Torah treated? Why is it treated this way?</p> <p><i>With respect, not touching, using a yad as a pointer. It is considered to be the actual word of God.</i></p>	<p>True or false?</p> <p><i>Women cannot be rabbis.</i></p> <p><i>False—there are women rabbis in progressive or reform Judaism but not in orthodox.</i></p>	<p>Why do Jewish people have a Mezuzah? What do they do with it?</p> <p><i>To act as a constant reminder of God's presence. Attach it to their doorposts.</i></p>	<p>Why do some Jewish people write 'G-d'?</p> <p><i>As a mark of respect and so God's name cannot be removed or destroyed.</i></p>
<p>What sort of an outlook would a Jewish person have if they prayed the Adon Olam everyday?</p> <p><i>God is present in the day to day, he is eternal and they have absolute faith that they will be guided by him.</i></p>	<p>What names do Jewish people use for God?</p> <p><i>'Hasham' meaning 'The Name', Almighty, King, Father, Lord, King of Kings.</i></p>	<p>Why do Jewish people say blessings?</p> <p><i>To remind them of the presence of God in all situations.</i></p>	<p>If something is not classed as 'Kosher', then it is classed as _____.</p> <p><i>Forbidden, non-kosher, trefah</i></p>
<p>What does the Shema prayer show about how Jews respect God?</p> <p><i>Belief in one God, and the command to love God with all their heart, soul &amp; might.</i></p>	<p>How is Judaism similar to other religions?</p> <p><i>One God, prayers, holy books, places or worship</i></p>	<p>Where was Moses when he received the commandments from God?</p> <p><i>Mount Sinai</i></p>	<p>Are there any particular laws that Jewish people need to follow?</p> <p><i>The ten commandments</i></p>
<p>What happens during worship at a synagogue?</p> <p><i>Services in a synagogue are often led by a rabbi, although in some synagogues, anyone can lead the service. There will also be prayers, some might be sung.</i></p>	<p>How many books from the Bible make up the Torah?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p>What items could you put on a 'Kosher' dinner plate?</p> <p><i>Bread, fruits, vegetables, nuts</i></p>	<p>List as many differences between orthodox and progressive Judaism/synagogues as you can.</p> <p><i>Men and women are allowed to sit together in a progressive synagogue whereas they must sit apart orthodox synagogue. Progressive prayers are shorter than those read in an orthodox synagogue and some are read in English, rather than Hebrew alone.</i></p>

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