

Aim

- To discuss key parts of a Jewish synagogue.

Success Criteria

- I can explain what a place of worship is.
- I can name and talk about some important parts of a Jewish synagogue.
- I can talk about some important things that Jewish people believe.
- I can identify and name important parts and objects from a synagogue.

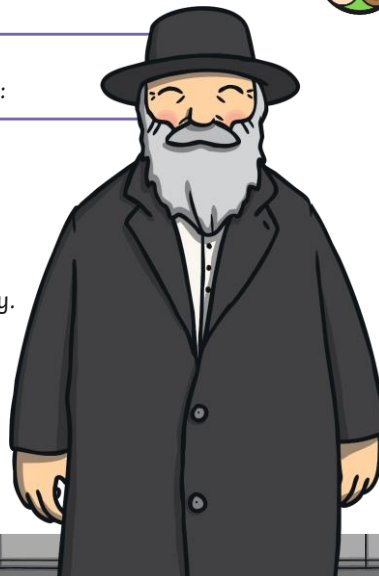
What Is a Place of Worship?



A place of worship is a special place within a religion where believers go to:

- ✓ pray;
- ✓ worship;
- ✓ learn about their religion;
- ✓ spend time together as a community.

Here's an idea...



Judaism

Whole Class


Judaism is a religion. People who follow Judaism are called Jews.

What do you think Jewish people believe?

Jews believe in one God. They believe God made the world and all people. They believe that God loves them and looks after them.

Most Jews try to follow important rules to live their lives the way they think God would like them to.

Jews think God is very holy. They think His name is so holy that it should not be written down. As a sign of respect, Jews write **G-d**.



Judaism

Whole Class

What special rules do you think Jews have?

Jews have lots of rules in their special book, the Torah. An important set of rules is the Ten Commandments.

Jews believe God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. They try to keep all Ten Commandments throughout their lives.

I

You shall have
no gods before me

II

You shall not make
any idols to worship

III

You shall not take the
Lord's name in vain

IV

Remember and keep
the Sabbath holy

V

Honour your father
and mother

VI

You shall
not kill

VII

You shall not
commit adultery

VIII

You shall not
steal

IX

You shall not bear
false witness

X

You shall not covet your
neighbour's wife nor goods

Judaism

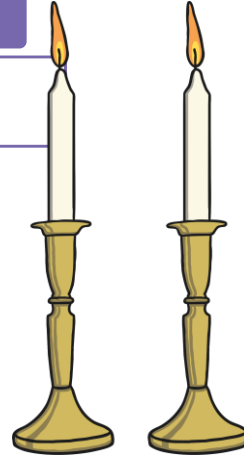


What special things do you think Jews do?

Jews have special celebrations throughout the year that celebrate and remember their faith.

Each week, many Jews have a special meal together on Friday night. They light candles, say special prayers and think about God. Saturday is their special day of the week.

Jews also have special festivals through the year. At their New Year celebration, called Rosh Hashanah, a special horn is blown. Prayers are said, candles are lit and sweet foods are eaten.

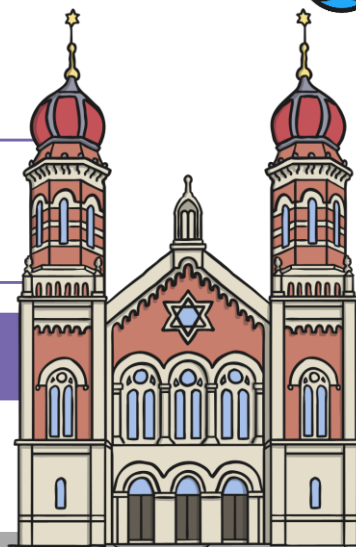


We Might See...



Jews have a special place of worship. Many go to this place to pray and worship. They can also celebrate special events there.

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



In a Synagogue



Let's take a look inside a synagogue. Before we go inside, there are some important rules we must follow. Many places of worship have special rules for people to follow as a way of showing respect.

Cover your head

Most people in a synagogue cover their heads. Men wear a special cap called a kippah. Women also cover their heads. Some children and young people do not have to cover their heads.

Be quiet

A synagogue is used for different things. Some of these things, like prayer, are quiet things. It is important to be aware of how quiet things are inside, so that you can be respectful of people who might be thinking in silence.



In a Synagogue



Prayer Room



This is where many Jews gather to pray together. In some synagogues, men sit in a different area to the women. Men wear a special shawl, called a **tallit**, when they pray.



In a Synagogue



The Cantor



This person has a special place in the room to stand. They chant prayers for the rest of the people to join in with.



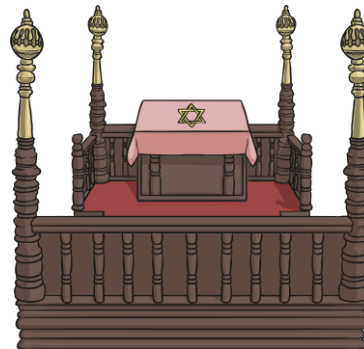
In a Synagogue



The Bimah



The Jewish special book is called the Torah. It is sacred to Jewish believers. The **bimah** is a raised platform where the Torah is placed when it is to be read from. This is often in the middle of the room, or at the end of the room near the **ark**. The **cantor** stands here, too.



In a Synagogue



The Ark

To look after their special book, every synagogue has an **ark**. This is a special place where the Torah is kept. It is often on the main wall of the synagogue and impressively decorated.



In a Synagogue



Eternal Light

In some synagogues, there is a light above the **ark**. This is called the Eternal Light. Its name comes from a verse in the Torah which says an eternal flame should burn in the temple all the time. It is also a reminder of the candles in the Temple in Jerusalem that stayed lit, which Jews believe was a miracle of God.

