



JUDAISM

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Overview

Judaism is one of the world's major religions. It is the **world's 10th largest religion**, with about 15.2 million followers. It is around 4,000 years old.

Jews are the people who follow Judaism. Like Christians and Muslims, Jews believe that there is only one God, who created the world and everything in it.

Abraham is seen as the father of the Jewish religion. Jews believe that Judaism began when he started worshipping one God instead of many.

Judaism began in the **Middle East** – but there are now Jewish people all across the world.

The main holy book of Judaism is the **Torah**, written in **Hebrew**. **Synagogues** are Jewish worship buildings.

Image of the Torah at the Western wall in Jerusalem.



Answers to Important Questions and Key Vocabulary

<p>Where and how do Jews worship? Why?</p>		<p>-Synagogues are where Jewish people go to worship. -In Orthodox synagogues, men and women sit separately. In progressive synagogues, men and women can sit together and worship. -Synagogues have large rooms for prayers, and normally smaller rooms for studying. -The front of a synagogue faces towards Jerusalem. -There is always a raised platform called a Bimah.</p>	<p>Key Vocabulary</p> <p>Judaism Jew Torah Synagogue Abraham Passover Bar/Bat Mitzvah Exodus Yad Mitzvot Shabbat Covenant Kashrut Kosher Trefa Ark Nevi'im Ketuvim Talmud</p> <p>Key concepts:</p> <p>Monotheism Place of worship Sacred texts Rites of passage The Messiah</p>
<p>What is the Torah?</p>		<p>-The Torah is the Jewish holy book. -They are written in Hebrew on rolls of parchment. The scrolls are never touched when they are read from – readers use a pointer called a yad.</p>	
<p>Where do most Jews live in the world?</p>		<p>-There are around 14.6 million Jews in the world. -Two countries – the United States and Israel - have 81% of the world's total Jewish population. -Some of the other countries with substantial Jewish populations include France, Canada, Russia, the United Kingdom, Argentina and Germany. -There were 17 million Jews in 1939, but this was reduced to 11 million by 1945 due to the Holocaust.</p>	
<p>How many different types of Jews are there?</p>		<p>-There are many different branches of Judaism. -Some Jews still follow all of Judaism's original laws and customs – these are called Orthodox Jews. -Jews who do not follow all of these traditions are called Progressive Jews. Progressive Jews are happy to be flexible with certain Jewish laws, in order to fit in with their modern, everyday lives.</p>	

Jewish Beliefs & Practice

Jewish Obligations and Rules

- The main set of rules are called the 10 commandments, these include things such as 'thou shall not kill' and thou shall not lie'.
- Most Jews will observe the Sabbath (also called Shabbat) every Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. This is a day of rest, Jews are not allowed to cook, clean and work, amongst many other things.
- Jewish people may wear a prayer shawl, known as a Tallit, during worship. Many men will wear Tefillin which is 2 black boxes with tiny pieces of the Torah in them, one on the head so you are mindful of the scripture, another on the left arm so it is close to the heart.
- A Jewish girl and boy will have a coming-of-age ceremony when they are 12/13, this is called a Bat/Bar Mitzvah.
- Jews follow a strict law when it comes to food. They can only eat food which is Kosher, forbidden food is called Trefa. The main rule is to not mix meat and dairy products, so no Yorkshire pudding on Sunday roast!



Abraham's Sacrifice

Abraham's sacrifice is one of the most important sacrifices of all time. God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac on an altar. Abraham had strong faith in God's earlier promise so he set out to prepare an altar and kill his son. At the moment he was about to kill him God stopped him and he slaughtered a lamb instead.

Top 10 Facts!

1. Jews believe in one God, that is a spirit and has no physical form.
2. Abraham was the founder of Judaism, the first of many monotheistic religious traditions.
3. A kippah is the clothing item that many Jewish men wear on their head.
4. Some Jewish people have 2 completely separate areas in their kitchens so meat and dairy or not put together, this can be 2 fridge's 2 sets of cutlery, 2 sinks etc.
5. Strict Jews are not allowed to travel or watch TV on the day of Shabbat!
6. Jews celebrate the freedom of the Israelites from Egypt by celebrating the Passover every year. They use a seder plate to symbolise the tragedies that unfolded there.
7. The Rabbi is the name of the person leading worship in the Synagogue – the Jewish place of worship
8. Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son because God asked him to – this was a test of his faith and he ended up sacrificing a lamb instead

Judaism Timeline

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| 1713 BCE: Abraham forms the first covenant with God. | 1250 BCE: The Exodus – people of Israel freed from Egypt. | 993 BCE: King David establishes a capital city in Jerusalem. | 970 BCE: King Solomon constructs the First Temple. | 66 CE: The Jews revolt against Roman rulers. | 70 CE: The Second Temple in Rome is destroyed, and many Jews are forced to leave Israel. | 1930s-1945: 6 million Jews are killed by the Nazi German regime in the Holocaust in Europe. | 1948: The state of Israel is established. Its capital is Jerusalem. |
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