CBS Knowledge Organiser

Religion and Worldviews

Judaism

Overview

Judaism is one of the world's major religions. It is the **world's 10th largest religion**, with about 14.6 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 Great Synagogue of Florence, in Italy, Europe.



Jewish Beliefs

The Four Stages of Life



-Jews believe in four important stages of life, and mark each with a religious ceremony.
-The four are: birth, becoming an adult, marriage and death.

-When Jewish boys (aged 13) and Jewish girls (aged 12) become Jewish adults, they have a bar mitzvah (for boys) or bat mitzvah (for girls) ceremony. At these ages, Jewish religion, law and social life judges that the boys and girls become responsible for their own actions. The ceremony is usually held on the first Shabbat (Jewish day of rest) after their birthday. In a bar mitzvah ceremony, a boy must read passages from the Torah.

The Story of Abraham



-Abraham is an important figure in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. His story is told in the Genesis section of the Bible.

-According to the story, Abraham made an agreement with God, in which he promised to be faithful and to teach his laws to the world. In return God gave Abraham and his descendants the land of Israel. Even though Abraham was 99, and his wife Sarah 90, God enabled them to have a son, Isaac, forming the first Jewish family.

Ceremonies and Festivals



- Jews enjoy many ceremonies and festivals as a part of their religion.

-Passover takes place in March or April, and is when Jewish people remember how God brought them out of Egypt (the Exodus). A special meal is created to remind the Jews of the good and bad times in the past. It includes hard boiled egg, parsley, boiled potato, lettuce, horseradish, chopped apples and walnuts.

-Hannukah takes place in December and is known as 'the Jewish festival of lights.' People light candles, exchange presents, and eat foods such as latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiot (jam doughnuts).

Key Information and Vocabulary

Where and how do Jews worship? Why?	 	-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.
What is the Torah?		-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.
Where do most Jews live in the world?		-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.
How many different types of Jews are there?		-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.

Key Vocabulary

Judaism
Jew
Torah
Synagogue
Abraham
Passover
Hanukkah
Bar Mitzvah
Bat Mitzvah
Middle East
Exodus
Jerusalem
Yad

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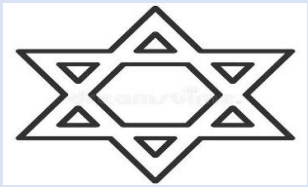
Timeline

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 modern state of Israel is established. Its capital is Jerusalem.

Top 10 Facts

1. Jews believe in one God, that is a spirit and has no physical form.
2. A kippah is the clothing item that many Jewish men wear on their head.
3. Praying is very important in Judaism – there are prayers for every occasion.
4. Jesus was born into the Jewish religion, but began preaching his own ideas.
5. Many Jewish homes have a family box, and give to those in need.
6. Strict Jews are not allowed to travel or watch TV on the day of Shabbat!
7. Jewish New Year takes place in September/ October time, and is called Rosh Hashanah.
8. Jews fast for 25 hours and pray during Yom Kippur.
9. Anne Frank was a famous Jewish girl, who was killed in the Holocaust.
10. The Anne Frank House and Secret Annex, in Amsterdam, Netherlands, remains one of Europe's busiest tourist attractions.

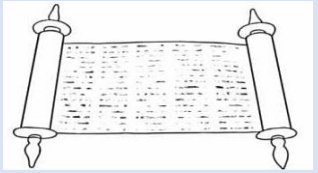
Important Symbols



Star of David - a symbol of the Jewish faith and the Jewish people.



Menorah - a special seven-branched lampstand that represents God's presence and light.



Torah Scroll - the holiest text in Judaism, containing God's teachings and laws.