

# Judaism – Key information

## Key beliefs

Jews believe in one God. They also try to live by the Ten Commandments. They include using God's name with respect, remembering the Sabbath, respecting your parents and not lying or stealing. Jews believe God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses.

## Festivals

The Sabbath	This is a festival that lasts from sundown on Friday till sundown on Saturday each week. Jews celebrate as a family. They enjoy a special meal with prayers and songs.
Yom Kippur	Jews fast, reflect on the previous year and pray for God's forgiveness.
Hanukkah	This is the festival of lights when Jews light a Hannukah menorah dedicated to God.
Passover	Jews remember being led out of slavery by Moses.



## Key Vocabulary

Ten Commandments	Ten important life rules for Jews given to Moses by God.
The Sabbath	The holy day for Jews.
Pilgrimage	A special religious journey.
Synagogue	Place of worship for Jewish people.
Rabbi	Jewish religious leader and teacher.
Ark	The place where the Torah is kept in a synagogue.
Torah	The Jewish holy book.
Hebrew	A language used by Jewish people.
Hannukah menorah	A special lamp with nine candles that's lit by Jews during Hanukkah.
Fast	To not eat or drink for a period of time.
Barmitzvah	A ceremony to show a Jewish boy has become an adult. It happens when a boy is 13 years old.
Batmitzvah	A ceremony to show a Jewish girl has become an adult. It happens when a girl is 12 years old.



## Key places



Jewish people go to a synagogue to worship. Men and women sit separately in some synagogues. The most important part of the synagogue is the Ark. This is where the Torah is kept. The Torah is treated with great respect.

## Key Scripture

The Torah is treated with great respect. Jews are not allowed to touch it. Hebrew is a special language for Jews. Jews believe God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses in Hebrew. The Torah is written in Hebrew and Jews learn to read it.

## Background

Judaism began around 4000 years ago in the Middle East. Jerusalem is a place where many Jews go to on a pilgrimage.

## Jewish symbols

Tallit	This is a special prayer shawl used by Jewish men to pray.
Kippah	This is a special cap worn by Jewish men and boys to show respect to God.
Star of David	This is the symbol of the whole of the Jewish community.