

UNIT U2.9	Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people? [God/Torah]	Year: 5	Term: Summer 1
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KNOWLEDGE BUILDING BLOCKS

Pupils should know:

- ❖ The importance of Jewish festivals such as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Hanukkah and Passover
- ❖ Significant celebrations in Jewish family life such as Shabbat and the importance of religious artefacts such as the mezuzah.
- ❖ People who follow the Jewish faith worship in a synagogue and follow the teachings of the Torah, which is written in Hebrew.



The Shema is taken from the Torah and regarded by many Jews as the most important prayer in Judaism. This is because it reminds them of the key principle of the faith - there is only one God.

The purpose of a mezuzah is to act as a constant reminder of God's presence. Jews will often touch the mezuzah as they go through the door. The instruction for this comes from the Torah.



A Sefer Torah is a copy of the formal Hebrew text of the Torah. It is hand-written on special types of parchment. It is used each week in the synagogue.

The **TeNaKh** is the Jewish Bible and is made up of three parts. Torah (Law), Nevi'im (the Prophets) and Ketuvim (the writings).

The Torah is the part at the heart of Jewish belief.

- ❖ The creation story in the Torah is remembered each week during **Shabbat** and celebrated every year at **Rosh Hashanah**.
- ❖ The Torah also tells the story of how Jewish slaves were led out of Egypt. **Passover** celebrates this.
- ❖ The Torah has 613 commandments. Some of the **Mitzvot** tells Jews which food may or may not be eaten. This results in Kosher food laws which some Jews choose to keep.



There are two types of Synagogue. Men and women are allowed to sit together at a Progressive synagogue but not at an Orthodox one.

 Mitzvot	Commandment.	 TeNaKh	Jewish Bible
 Siddur	A daily prayer book	 Rosh Hashanah	Is a celebration of the creation of the world and marks making a fresh start
 Torah	The first five books of the Hebrew Bible	 covenant	An agreement.
 kosher	"clean" or "pure" food that has been ritually prepared or blessed so it can be eaten by religious Jews.	 yad	A Jewish ritual pointer, used by the reader to follow the text during the Torah reading