Religious Education

Year 6– Judaism

Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people?

Key Vocabulary

Teffilin	small black leather boxes with leather straps, containing scrolls of parchment inscribed with verses from the Torah.
Sefer Torah	A Torah scroll - a handwritten copy of the Torah.
Yad	A handheld pointer used for reading the Sefer Torah.
TeNakh	The whole Jewish Bible
Aron Hakodesh (The Holy Ark)	Contains the Torah Scrolls, in the front of the synagogue.
mitzvah	Hebrew for 'commandment' or 'a good deed'.



Key Knowledge

Jews believe that God tells them in the TeNaKh (the whole Jewish Bible) the way of life that they must follow. The TeNaKh should be treated with utmost respect. This is equivalent to the Christian Old Testament.

The Sefer Torah is kept at the synagogue. It is made using traditional methods including using animal skin for the parchment which are sewn together to make one long scroll.

If the Torah were to be dropped, traditionally you would be expected to fast for one day.

When a Torah becomes old and worn out, it should be buried, often in the same grave as a Torah scholar.

Key Questions

What does the Shema suggest about Jewish beliefs about God?

How is a Sefer Torah used each week in a synagogue?

How do the mitzvot affect the everyday lives of Jewish people?

How are Orthodox and Progressive synagogues the same and different?

The Torah



Place of worship

Synagogue



The place of worship where Jewish people can get together to feel closer to God.