

Aspirational Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Judaism	One of the oldest monotheistic religions, centred on the belief in one God and the teachings of the Torah.
Jew	A follower of Judaism.
Torah	The most sacred text in Judaism, containing the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.
Synagogue	A Jewish place of worship, learning, and community gathering.
Rabbi	A Jewish religious teacher and leader.
Shabbat	The Jewish day of rest, observed from Friday evening to Saturday evening.
Abraham	Considered the founding father of Judaism; made a covenant with God.
Moses	A key prophet in Judaism; led the Israelites out of slavery and received the Ten Commandments.
Bar/Bat Mitzvah	A coming-of-age ceremony for Jewish boys (Bar) and girls (Bat), usually at age 13 or 12 respectively.
Pesach	Passover – a major Jewish festival that remembers the Exodus from Egypt.
Hanukkah	A Jewish festival celebrating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.
Kippah	A skullcap worn by Jewish men and boys as a sign of respect for God.
Mezuzah	A small case containing a scroll with Hebrew verses, placed on doorposts in Jewish homes.

Introduction to Judaism

- Judaism is a monotheistic religion that dates back over 3,000 years.
- Jews believe in one God and follow the teachings of the Torah.
- It is both a religion and a cultural identity, with strong traditions and history.

- Life events such as Bar/Bat Mitzvah, marriage, and mourning have specific rituals.
- These practices help Jews connect with God and their community.

Founding Fathers of Judaism

- Abraham is seen as the father of the Jewish people; he made a covenant with God.
- Moses is the most important prophet; he led the Israelites out of Egypt and received the Torah on Mount Sinai.
- These figures are central to Jewish history and belief.

Celebrations

- Pesach (Passover) remembers the Exodus from Egypt and includes a special meal called the Seder.
- Hanukkah celebrates a miracle at the rededication of the Temple and is marked by lighting candles.
- Other festivals include Rosh Hashanah (New Year), Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), and Sukkot (Festival of Booths).

The Synagogue

- A synagogue is a place of worship and learning for the Jewish community.
- It usually contains the Ark (where Torah scrolls are kept), a reading platform, and space for prayer.
- The Rabbi leads services, teaches, and supports the community.

Big Questions

- What are the core beliefs and practices of Judaism?
- Why are Abraham and Moses important in Jewish history?
- What role does the synagogue play in Jewish life?
- How do Jewish rituals and celebrations help express faith?
- What can we learn from Jewish traditions about community and identity?

Rituals of Judaism

- Rituals include daily prayers, keeping kosher (dietary laws), and observing Shabbat.