







Judaism

Symbols and Artefacts	
	Star of David: The Star, or Shield, of David is the symbol of Judaism.
	Torah: The Jewish sacred text is called the Torah. It is the laws of God given to the Jews by the prophet Moses who received them from God on Mount Sinai.
	Yad: The Torah is considered so special that nobody is allowed to touch it. Jews use a special pointer called a yad when reading it.
	Tallit: Devout Jews will put on a shawl called a tallit to pray. The fringes are a reminder of the commandments of the Torah.
	Kippah: When in the synagogue, men cover their heads. The kippah reminds Jews of their faith.
	Menorah: A seven lamp lampstand made out of pure gold stands in front of the Ark where the Torah is kept. Moses created the first Menorah whilst in the wilderness according to God's instructions.

Beliefs and Traditions

Kasher Food
Jewish food and drink laws are known as 'Kashrut' laws and Jews believe that these rules are a test of obedience and self-control. Jewish people only consume 'kasher' food and drink. The Torah (Jewish holy book) indicates to Jews which foods are not permitted ('trefah' foods). Kasher means 'fit to eat'.

As well as only eating kosher food, the kitchen must be kosher too. Only kosher food may be brought into the kitchen. There must be separate cutlery, dishes, plates, cups, pots, pans, work surfaces, draining racks, dish cloths, place mats and table cloths for both meat, dairy food and drink.

Shabbat The Sabbath (Shabbat) is commanded by God. Every week religious Jews observe the Sabbath, the Jewish holy day, and keep its laws and customs. The Sabbath begins at nightfall on Friday and lasts until nightfall on Saturday. God commanded the Jewish People to observe the Sabbath and keep it holy as the fourth of the Ten Commandments as set out in the Torah.

Shema
Shema is one of the most important Jewish prayers. It is one of the first prayers learnt by Jewish children. It is said three times every day by Jewish people. It is included in nearly every service at the Synagogue.

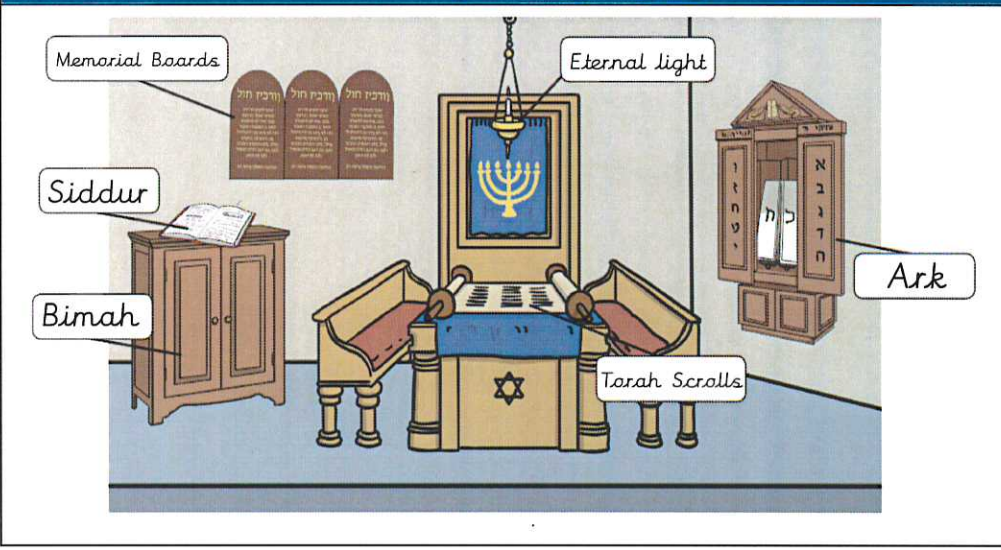
Mezuzah
The Shema can be found inside a Mezuzah. There is one on each door frame. When Jewish people pass the Mezuzah they kiss it.

Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah: Also known as the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur is one of the most important days of the Hebrew year. Yom Kippur falls in September or October on the eve of the 10th day of the Jewish New Year. The first day of the New Year is Rosh Hashanah. According to the Jewish faith, this is the day when God decides each person's fate. Between the first and tenth day of the year, Jews confess their guilt and ask friends and enemies for forgiveness. Jews also ask God for forgiveness.

The Ten Commandments: the rules received by Moses on Mount Sinai.



Features of a Synagogue



The Ark: The Ark is a cupboard in which the Torah scrolls are kept.

Torah Scrolls: The scrolls contain the words of the Hebrew Bible.

Eternal Light: This hangs above the Ark and is always burning to remind everyone that God is always with them.

Memorial Boards: These are boards full of name plates. Each name plate remembers someone who has died.

Siddur: This is the main prayer book.

Bimah: A raised platform where most of the service takes place. The Torah readings happen here.