



Religious Education



Year 1

Friday 17th July



What is the Torah?





Learning Intention

The Torah - we are learning...



- the Torah is the Jewish holy book that contains rules for Jews to live by
- the synagogue is the place where Jews go to learn, worship God and be together and is where the Torah is kept
- light is a symbol for God's presence in the synagogue

Lets remember....what's in the Torah?

- The word Torah actually means 'teaching'. The Torah is made up of five books, also known as the five books of Moses.
- The Torah contains lots of instructions about how Jewish people should live.
- The Torah is a mixture of stories and teachings.
- One famous story is about how God created the first human beings. **Can you remember what this story is called?**
- They tell Jewish people how to pray, what to eat and which festivals to celebrate.





- It's written in Hebrew and is read with a yad.
- 'Yad' is Hebrew for 'finger'
- Why might you need a 'pointer?'





What does the Torah teach?

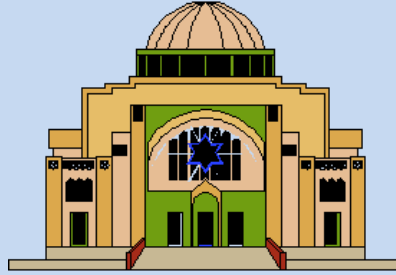
- Over thousands of years, *Rabbis* have talked about what the Torah meant and came up with details of how Jewish people should live their lives.
- Lots of these ideas can be seen on the next slide.



- The Torah is the “instruction manual” for being Jewish. Not every Jewish person follows all the rules, but all Jews see the Torah as being sacred and special.

What do you think about the Torah?





Lets visit a synagogue

The short video includes a description of the main features of a synagogue and the items that are important for Jews. An explanation of the importance of the Ark and the Torah is given. The scrolls are treated with great respect. There is also mention of men and women sitting separately and a brief explanation of Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah.

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/z4mxfg>



When boys and men go into the synagogue they must cover their heads.



The little round hat they wear is called a **kippah**. They often wear a prayer shawl over their shoulders, called a **tallit**.



Every synagogue contains an Ark.



This is a special cupboard where the **Torah Scrolls**, which contain the text of the Hebrew bible are kept and is regarded as the living Word of God. Opened out, it would extend to the length of a football pitch! The scroll is written by hand.



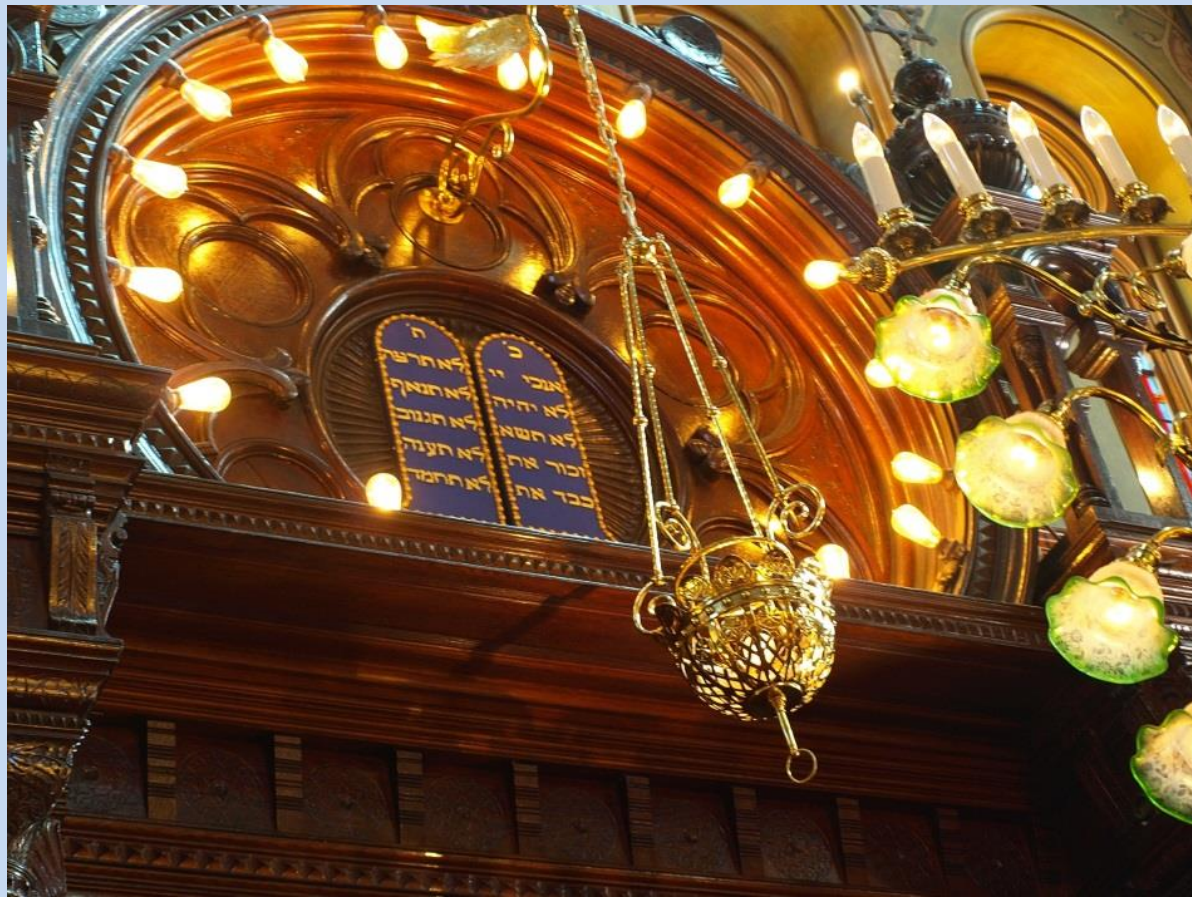
What do you notice about this Ark?



Are there any symbols or images you have seen before?



An Eternal Light (called Ner Tamid) hangs above the Ark. This light is always burning, as a symbol of God's presence.





During the service, the Ark is ceremonially opened, and the Torah scroll is carried in procession to the reading desk, unrolled to the reading chosen for the day and laid on the reading desk.



The interior of a synagogue can be very beautiful, just like a cathedral.





What have we learnt about the synagogue?



What would you expect to find in a synagogue?

What special Jewish words have you learnt today?

Why is light used to symbolise God's presence in the synagogue?



Show me what you know....

A synagogue



Ark



Everlasting light



Kippah and Tallit





How do I know if I have achieved?

SC1 I can recall facts about the Synagogue

(It's a place where Jews go to learn, worship God and be together.)

SC2 I know where the Torah is kept and why

(It is kept in a locked cupboard called the 'ark' and is 'undressed' before being read, it is the most precious possession in a synagogue.)

SC3 I know light is the symbol for God's presence in the synagogue

(The everlasting light that burns in a synagogue is symbolic of God's presence and is never extinguished)