



It's All Greek to Me!

What does it mean to follow Jewish faith?

Lesson 1—What evidence might you find which identifies a home as Jewish?

Jewish symbols and their meanings play an important role in the day-to-day life of every Jew. These items are usually found in Jewish homes:

The Menorah: oldest symbol in Judaism. 7 branched candelabrum.



The Mezuzah: a scroll that Jewish people keep inside a case.

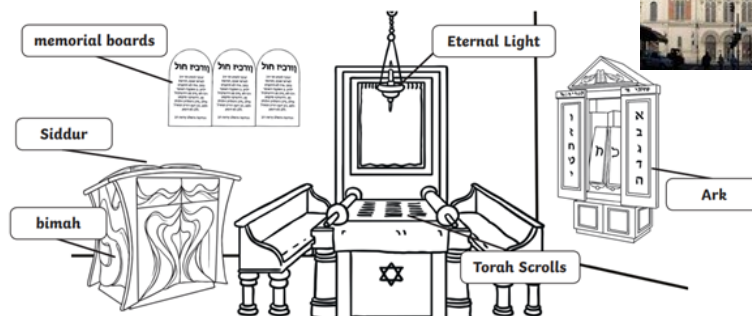


The Hamsa: a good luck charm

The Star of David: the symbol of the Jewish community.



Lesson 2—What are the main features of a synagogue and what are their significance?



Lesson 3—What is the meaning of the symbols associated with Shabbat and Pesach?

Shabbat: A day of peace and rest.

Every Saturday as God built the world in six days.

Pesach: Passover - one of the most important festivals in the Jewish year.

Lesson 4—What is the meaning of the symbols associated with Sukkot and Hanukkah?

Hanukkah: Also known as the Festival of Light. It is a time for remembrance for when the Greek ruler forced the ancient Jews to abandon their religious practices and follow the greek ones.

Sukkot: During Sukkot, Jewish people remember the time after God freed them from slavery in Egypt. It lasts for 7 days.

Lesson 5—What symbols are there with in the Jewish wedding ceremony and what do they signify?

- Ketubah (marriage contract)
- Huppah (wedding canopy)
- A ring owned by the groom that is given to the bride under the canopy
- The breaking of a glass

Lesson 6—What does it mean to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

A Bat Mitzvah coming of age ceremony for Jewish boys and girls when they reach the age of 12 or 13 to mark them becomes a Jewish adult.

This means that they are now responsible for their own actions and can decide for themselves how they would like to practice Judaism.

Key Vocabulary

Rabbi: A jewish teacher who teaches Jewish law

Shema: translates to hear/listen

Seder meal: a ritual feast at the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover

Mitzvot: a set of rules that Jewish people believe were given to Moses by God

