

Key words

Sacred - Something special or Holy and often having religious significance

Mitzvah - Commandment
A mitzvah is something a Jewish person must do.

Community - A group of people living in the same place or having something in common.

Initiation - Becoming part of a community, often through taking part in a ceremony or ritual.

Laws - Rules set by a community - usually things we do not want people to do.

Values - Ideas that are important to us, like treat everyone equally.

Holy Book - Books and Scripture that all religions have, containing stories, traditions, laws and values.

Sects - Religions often have different groups within them. These sects usually share the same core beliefs but may have different ways of worshipping.



Year 7 - Term One:

During this unit, we explore what may happen when lost on a desert island. How do traditions develop? How do we preserve our stories? How do communities change over time?

The Island

Initiation



→ Jewish boys have a Bar Mitzvah and girls have a Bat Mitzvah.

→ It is an initiation ceremony where a Jewish child becomes a full, responsible member of their community.

→ The child reads from their Holy Book and they have a big family party.

Preserving the story



→ The Jewish Holy Book is called the Torah and was given by God to Moses.

→ Each copy is sacred. They are handwritten and take 18 months.

→ It is in the Ancient Hebrew language - translating may lose meaning.

→ It is kept in a special place called 'The Ark' in the synagogue.

Sects and Differences



ORTHODOX

→ The Torah is the exact word of God - it should never be changed.

→ Men and women must worship separately.

→ Stick to all 613 laws and values including strict food laws like no pork or shellfish.

Sacred

→ A tefillin is a sacred object worn by Jewish men.



→ Worn on the head and heart showing they should serve God with their thoughts and heart.

→ It is a Jewish Mitzvah but it is also a tradition passed through generations.

Laws and Values



→ When Moses escaped from Egypt with the Jews, he needed some laws and values to help his community live well together.

→ Jews believe that God provided Moses with the 10 most important rules.

These include laws like 'do not kill' and values such as 'always respect your parents.'

Special Place



→ The Jewish Holy building is the synagogue. Jews come together on Holy days to worship + read the Torah.

→ They treat the building with respect by wearing a kippah on their heads.

→ Jews also have a special place called the Western Wall. It is the only wall left of the first synagogue in Jerusalem.

→ Some Jews travel here to celebrate the festival of Shavuot. This remembers the time when God first revealed the Torah to Moses.

→ The Torah is important but was written by humans. There may be mistakes + it can be updated.

→ Stick to the main 10 Commandments but believe the others are outdated.

→ Women have more of a role. They worship alongside men, lead services and read the Torah. Girls can also have a Bat Mitzvah.

REFORM

