

CurriculumVisions Lesson 1

Students: fill in next to the word answer and return the document for assessment.

Religion

The Synagogue

Book: Jewish Synagogue

Everything here is based on our Curriculum Visions book Jewish Synagogue.

In this segment, we are going to think about how the different ways in which the Jewish synagogue is used.

You will need to go to pages 4 and 5.

Read the text on these pages. What are three ways the synagogue is used? In the pictures on these pages, how is the synagogue being used?

Answer.....

As a House of Gathering, a House of Prayer and a House of Learning. In the large picture, people are praying, so this is an example of the synagogue being used as a House of Prayer. In the small picture, people are studying, so this is an example of the synagogue being used as a House of Learning.

Look at the illustration on pages 6 and 7.

What are some parts of the synagogue that are reminders of the Temple in ancient Israel?

Answer.....

A Star of David (Magen David), which is a symbol of Judaism and of the shield of King David, who built the Temple. The Sanctuary or main room is a reminder of the Sanctuary in the ancient Temple. The Ark, which holds the Torah, is a reminder of the box that held the Torah in the Temple. The clothes around the Torah are a reminder of the clothes the priests' wore in the Temple. The lamp, or ner tamid, and the menorah are reminders of lamps in the Temple.

Why is the Torah important?

Answer.....

It is the Jewish Holy Book (Jews believe it is the word of God).

Look at pages 12 and 13? Can you name three types of clothing that are worn during worship? Why do Jews wear each of these things?

Answer.....

A kippah or skullcap, a shawl (or tallit) with fringes and prayer boxes.
Kippah: as a reminder that God is always present and a reminder of God
Tallit and prayer boxes: It was commanded by God

What are some of the things that happen during Shabbat (the day of rest) worship in the synagogue?

Answer.....

There are readings from the Torah, other readings, prayers, a sermon from the rabbi

What are some of the things that might be taught in classes at the synagogue?

Answer.....

Hebrew language, learning about the Torah, learning about Jewish culture

Can you name two festivals or holidays that are celebrated in the synagogue?
In the picture on page 21, why is the girl reading from the Torah?

Answer.....

Any of: Passover, Sukkot, Purim, Hanukkah, New Year.
It is her Bat Mitzvah – the celebration of when a child turns 13 and they are called up to read the Torah during Shabbat for the first time

Look at the time table on page 23. What are some of the things happening in the synagogue that week?

Answer.....

Any of: Worship services, activity clubs, Torah study lessons, Hebrew language lessons, senior groups, parent groups, charity groups, folk dancing, having questions answered, classes to prepare for Bat and Bar Mitzvah, holiday committee, children's lessons, etc.

That is the end of this worksheet. Find out if your teacher has left you any other worksheets or special instructions on your school website.

If you interested in this topic you may want to see related books. If so just go to the top of the screen, select religion, and from the page that opens choose Judaism or type a topic into our safe search engine.