



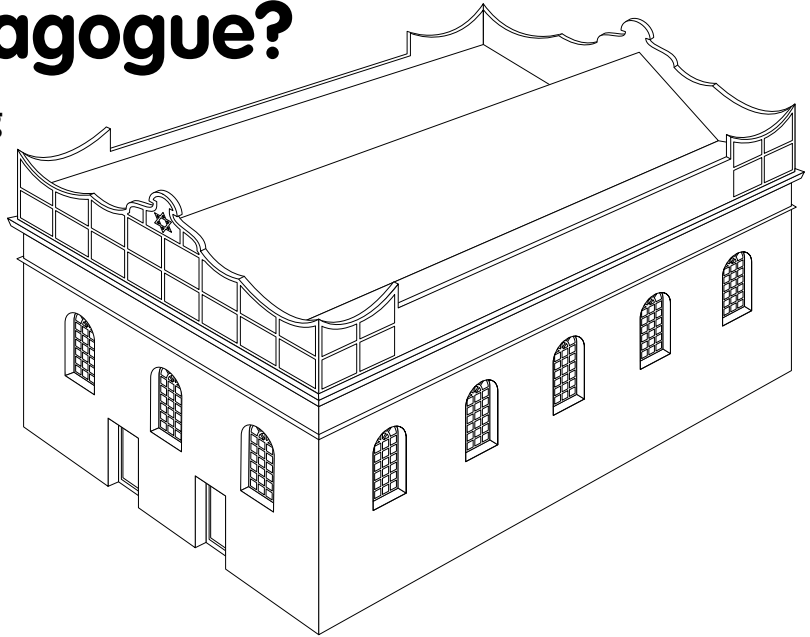
# 1

Name:..... Form:.....

See pages 4 and 5 of Jewish synagogue

## What is a synagogue?

A synagogue is one building with three different roles.



**Q1.** What is the language that many Jewish prayers and holy books are written in?

.....

**Q2.** What is the modern country near where Judaism began?

.....

**Q3.** Name one way in which a synagogue is used.

.....

**Q4.** Name a second way in which the synagogue is used.

.....

**Q5.** Name a third way in which the synagogue is used.

.....

**Q6.** What are the three Hebrew names for a synagogue?

.....

.....

.....



## Answers

1. Hebrew.
2. Israel.
3. Place for worship.
4. Gathering place.
5. Place for study.
6. Beit HaKneset; Beit HaTefillah;  
Beit HaMidrash.

## Lesson objectives

- ▶ To introduce the idea that Judaism began near modern Israel.
- ▶ To introduce the reasons why Hebrew is the language of prayer for Jews.
- ▶ To introduce the idea that the synagogue has three functions.

## Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children know that the synagogue is three buildings in one.
- ▶ The children understand that history plays an important part in Judaism.

## Teaching notes

*In the time of the ancient Jews, all worship took place in the Temple, the building constructed by King Solomon for worship. At that time, worship included animal sacrifices and was conducted solely by members of the priestly class (called kohanim) and led by a High Priest. After the destruction of the Temple by the Romans in 70 CE, the Jews dispersed around the world. Since they could no longer worship and sacrifice in the Temple, over time, Jews developed new practices of worship which centred instead on the Jewish community and the study of Jewish writings. The buildings where Jews worship came to be called synagogues (which is a Greek word related to the word synod). In America, some Jews use the word temple instead of synagogue, but*

*many Jews believe the word temple should be reserved for the original Temple in Jerusalem.*

*Today, all that remains of the Temple is the Western Wall, which is considered the holiest site in Judaism. Today, the mosque and Islamic holy site, the Dome of the Rock, is on the site of the ancient Temple.*

*Because most children will be aware of the modern day conflict in the Middle East, it is important to treat any history of Israel sensitively. It may help to point out that the time being discussed here was long before Islam came into being and that the modern day problems in Israel are separate from this ancient history and the origins of Judaism.*

## Complementary work

The children could use secondary sources to find out about some of the history of the Temple and ancient Israel. They could use a map or atlas to find important places in Jewish history, such as Egypt and Israel. The children could use ICT resources to watch live pictures of Jewish people worshipping at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. One web site is [www.kotelcam.org](http://www.kotelcam.org).

## Resources

Secondary sources about the ancient history of the Middle East, maps and atlases, a computer with internet access.