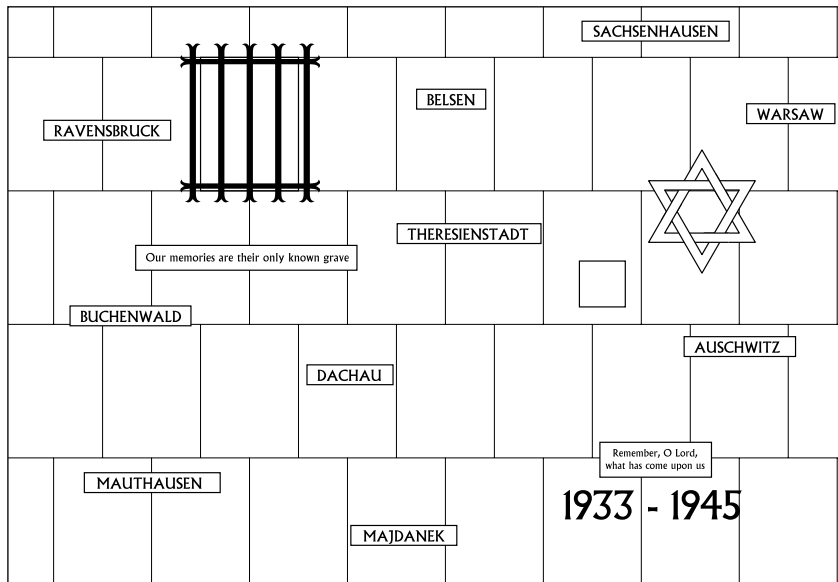
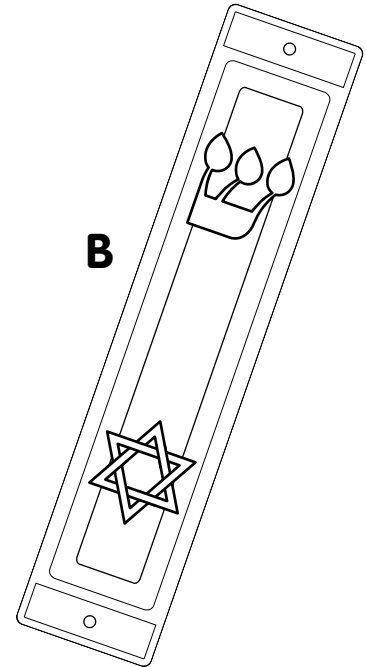


## Inside the synagogue

Almost everything that you will see inside the synagogue has an important meaning in Judaism.

**A****B**

**Q1.** Why are many synagogues built with one wall facing Jerusalem?

.....

**Q2.** What is picture **A** and what is its purpose?

.....

.....

**Q3.** What can you find inside picture **B**?

.....

.....

**Q4.** What is the Jewish holy book called? .....

**Q5.** What is the Hebrew word for commandments? .....

**Q6.** How many commandments are there in Judaism? .....



## Answers

1. As a reminder of the Temple.
2. Wall of remembrance. It reminds Jews of the people who died in the Holocaust.
3. A scroll with a prayer called the Shema written on it.
4. Torah.
5. Mitzvah.
6. 613.

## Lesson objectives

- ▶ To introduce some of the features found in a synagogue.
- ▶ To introduce the Torah, the Jewish holy book.

## Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children understand that the Torah is the Jewish holy book.
- ▶ The children can recognise some features found inside a synagogue.
- ▶ The children know that some features of modern synagogues are meant to remind Jewish people of their history.

## Teaching notes

*This unit addresses some of the key features children may see when they enter a synagogue.*

### Wall of remembrance

*Not all synagogues have this feature, but most synagogues in Europe and America have some type of Holocaust memorial. If the children have already studied the Holocaust as a history lesson, this may be a good time to review the history. If it is not the appropriate time to go into detail about the Holocaust, you may want instead to discuss the importance of remembering tragic events so that they are not repeated. You could discuss the saying "Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat*

*it" and ask what recent events it may be important to remember for this reason.*

### Mezuzah

*Mezuzah are traditionally found on the outside doorposts of Jewish homes and the doorposts inside synagogues. The word mezuzah is Hebrew for doorpost. The mezuzah is a constant reminder of God's presence. The commandment to place a mezuzah on the doorpost of the house is from Deuteronomy 6:4-9.*

### Torah and commandments

*The Torah consists of the first five books of the bible, what non-Jews call the Old Testament and what Jews call the Five Books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). The Torah also includes two additional sections, Prophets (which includes Joshua, Judges, Kings and many other sections) and Writings (which includes Psalms, Proverbs and Job). All of the Jewish laws and commandments are derived from these books. The children will probably be familiar with the ten commandments, but they may be surprised to learn that there are actually 613 commandments in Judaism. Of course, not all Jews today obey all the commandments and, in fact, it is impossible to obey many of them, which have to do with worship and making sacrifices at the Temple.*

## Complementary work

The children could use secondary sources to find out different designs for mezuzah. The children could also use secondary sources to find some of the 613 commandments. The ten commandments are found in Exodus 20:3-17.

### Resources

Secondary sources about Jewish objects, secondary sources about Jewish scriptures, Bible.