



# 9

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

See pages 20 and 21 of Jewish synagogue

## Celebrations and festivals

The synagogue is a place where the Jewish community comes to celebrate Jewish holidays and events.

**Q1.** What does the festival of Passover remember?

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 .....

**Q2.** What does the festival of Sukkot remember?

 .....

 .....

**Q3.** What does the festival of Purim remember?

 .....

 .....

**Q4.** List two things that happen in the synagogue during the festival of Purim?

 .....

 .....

**Q5.** What is one thing that happens in the synagogue when someone has a Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

 .....

**Q6.** (i) What do the words Bar Mitzvah mean?

 .....

(ii) What do the words Bat Mitzvah mean?

 .....



## Answers

1. **The time when God rescued the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt.**
2. **It is a harvest festival and a reminder of how the Jews camped in the desert when they left Egypt.**
3. **A time when Jews in Persia were saved from death by Esther.**
4. **The Book of Esther is read; people wear costumes; there may be a carnival or fete.**
5. **The person reads from the Torah during service; the person gives a speech.**
6. **(i) Son of the commandments;  
(ii) Daughter of the commandments.**

## Lesson objectives

- ▶ To introduce the children to some of the holidays that are celebrated in the synagogue.
- ▶ To understand what a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is and how it is celebrated.

## Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children can name a few holidays that are celebrated in the synagogue.
- ▶ The children understand the significance of a Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

## Teaching notes

*There are a large number of festivals and holidays that are celebrated in the synagogue during the year. The ones mentioned here are some of the easiest for children to understand.*

*The Jewish calendar is lunar, that is, each month begins on the new Moon and lasts 29 or 30 days. This means that the months on the Jewish calendar would shift 11 days each year (similar*

*to the Islamic calendar). To compensate for this, an extra month is occasionally added. However, the holidays still move around with respect to the Gregorian calendar. For example, the festival of Sukkot always begins on the 15th day of the first month in the Jewish calendar. This corresponds to a day between the last week in September and the third week in October.*

*The Jewish years are also numbered differently. The year number on the Jewish calendar represents the number of years since creation, calculated by adding up the ages of people in the Bible back to the time of creation. The year 2004 is 5765 in the Jewish calendar.*

*Mitzvah is an important time and is sometimes referred to as a coming of age ceremony. However, it does not mean that the child becomes an adult on that day, only that they are responsible for keeping the commandments. In many families, there is a big celebration or party. The Bar or Bat Mitzvah can occur at any age, however. In some Jewish communities, only boys have a mitzvah.*

## Complementary work

The children can use secondary sources to find out how different holidays are celebrated in the synagogue.

## Resources

Secondary sources about Jewish holidays.