

Key Vocabulary	
Jews	People who practice Judaism.
Jewish	Belonging to the faith of Judaism.
Ark	The special cupboard in the synagogue in which the Torah is kept safe.
Rabbi	Rabbi means 'Teacher' in Hebrew. A Rabbi is a religious leader who leads services in the synagogue.
Mezuzah	Attached to the doorpost of a Jewish house with some religious texts inside
Hebrew	The language that the Torah is written in. A very, very old language.
Yad	A pointer used by the reader to follow the text during the Torah reading because it is forbidden to touch the parchment
Shabbat	The Jewish weekly day of rest. Shabbat starts at on Friday and lasts until the sun sets on Saturday. During Shabbat, Jews remember that God created the world and on the seventh day he rested. Jews believe God's day of rest was a Saturday.
Pesach	Is a major Jewish holiday that celebrates the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt



**Judaism** is one of the world's major religions. It is the world's 10th largest religion, with about 14.6 million followers.

It is around 4,000 years old.

Like Christians and Muslims, Jews believe that there is only one God, who created the world and everything in it.

**Abraham** is seen as the father of the Jewish religion. Jews believe that Judaism began when he started worshipping one God instead of many.

Key Questions and Answers	
Where and how do Jews worship? Why?	<p><b>Synagogues</b> are where Jewish people go to worship. In Orthodox synagogues, men and women sit separately. In progressive synagogues, men and women can sit together and worship. Synagogues have large rooms for prayers, and normally smaller rooms for studying. The front of a synagogue faces towards Jerusalem. There is always a raised platform called a <b>Bimah</b></p> 
What is the Torah?	<p>The <b>Torah</b> is the <b>Jewish</b> holy book. They are written in <b>Hebrew</b> on rolls of parchment. The scrolls are never touched when they are read from - readers use a pointer called a <b>yad</b>.</p> 
Where do most Jews live in the world?	<p>There are around 14.6 million Jews in the world. Two countries - the <b>United States and Israel</b> - have 81% of the world's total Jewish population. Some of the other countries with substantial Jewish populations include France, Canada, Russia, the United Kingdom, Argentina and Germany.</p> 
How many different types of Jews are there?	<p>There are many different branches of Judaism. Some Jews still follow all of Judaism's original laws and customs - these are called <b>Orthodox Jews</b>. Jews who do not follow all of these traditions are called <b>Progressive Jews</b>. Progressive Jews are happy to be flexible with certain Jewish laws, in order to fit in with their modern, everyday lives.</p> 