

RMPS

National 3

World Religion

Judaism



Section 1: Beliefs

Outcomes and Assessment Standards

Outcome 1

The learner will:

1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion today by:

- 1.1 Stating some basic facts about one key belief
- 1.2 Stating some basic facts about one key practice

Outcome 2

The learner will:

2 Assess the impact and significance of religion today by:

- 2.1 Stating a link between a religious belief and practice in the religion studied
- 2.2 Stating a reason in support of a personal viewpoint in simple terms on the impact of a religious belief and practice on people's lives today

We are going to explore Judaism in two sections:

1. Beliefs
2. Practices

The beliefs we will look at are:

- The nature of G-d (what is G-d like?)
- The nature of human beings (what are people like?)
- The Covenant (including Passover)

The practices we will look at are:

- Shabbat
- Kashrut laws

Jewish Beliefs

The most important Jewish belief is G-d. Have a look at the list below of what Jews believe about G-d.

G-d is omnipotent which means that He is all powerful.

G-d is omniscient which means that He is all knowing.

G-d is the creator of this universe.

G-d is eternal which means he has no beginning or end.

G-d is omnipresent which means He is in all places at the same time.

Task 1

Write these in your jotter and draw a picture beside them to help you remember them.

Creation

The Jewish creation story is the same as the Christian one. It can be found in both the Torah (Jewish scriptures) and in the Old Testament (the first half of the Bible).

Task 2

First you will read the story found in Genesis 1.

Next you will summarise this story into your own words. You can do this as a comic strip.

There are challenging words that have been highlighted in the passage. Find out what those words mean and write them in your jotter.

Source Genesis 1 The Story of Creation

¹ In the beginning, when G-d created the universe-² the earth was **formless** and **desolate**. The raging ocean that covered everything was **engulfed** in total darkness, and the Spirit of G-d was moving over the water.³ Then G-d commanded, Let there be light and light appeared.⁴ G-d was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness,⁵ and he named the light Day and the darkness Night. Evening passed and morning came that was the **first day.**

⁶Then G-d commanded, Let there be a dome to divide the water and to keep it in two separate places and it was done. ⁷So G-d made a dome, and it separated the water under it from the water above it.⁸ He named the dome Sky. Evening passed and morning came that was the **second day.**



⁹ Then G-d commanded, Let the water below the sky come together in one place, so that the land will appear and it was done.¹⁰ He named the land Earth, and the water which had come together he named Sea. And G-d was pleased with what he saw.¹¹ Then he commanded, Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit and it was done.¹² So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and G-d was **pleased** with what He saw. ¹³ Evening passed and morning came that was the **third day.**

¹⁴ Then G-d commanded, Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals begin; ¹⁵ they will shine in the sky to give light to the earth and it was done.¹⁶ So G-d made the two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night; he also made the stars.¹⁷ He placed the lights in the sky to shine on the earth,¹⁸ to rule over the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And G-d was pleased with what He saw.¹⁹ Evening passed and morning came that was the **fourth day.**

²⁰ Then G-d commanded, Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings, and let the air be filled with birds.²¹ So G-d created the great sea monsters, all kinds of creatures that live in the water, and all kinds of birds. And G-d was pleased with what he saw.²² He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to **reproduce** and to fill the sea, and he told the birds to increase in number.²³ Evening passed and morning came that was the **fifth day**.



²⁴ Then G-d commanded, Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small and it was done.²⁵ So G-d made them all, and he was pleased with what he saw. ²⁶ Then G-d said, **and now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us.** They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small. ²⁷ So G-d created human beings, making them to be **like himself**. He created them male and female,²⁸ blessed them, and said, **Have many children**, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals.²⁹ I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat;³⁰ but for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants for food and it was done.³¹ G-d looked at everything he had made, and he was **very pleased**. Evening passed and morning came that was the **sixth day**.

If you are still unsure about the story, click on the following link:

[\(152\) LEGO Film - Genesis, The Creation Story - YouTube](#)

The creation story is an important **Jewish Belief** about how the world came to be.

Task 3

Describe what Jews believe about G-d. Include at least two beliefs in your response.

The nature of human beings

Jewish people believe that human beings:

1. Are made in the image of G-d.
2. Can be good or evil.
3. Have free will.

We are going to look at what each of those mean in turn.

Made in the image of G-d

This does not mean that human beings look like G-d. G-d has no body and is not male or female.

It means that, like G-d, human beings are able to **enquire** and **reason**. This means that we can use our thinking skills such as problem solving!

Free will

Human beings having free will is an important Jewish belief. Freewill is the ability to choose what you want to do and how you want to behave. This means that we can either choose to be good or evil.



Task 4

Answer the questions below.

1. What does it mean to be made in G-d's image?
2. what does it not mean to be made in G-d's image?
3. What is freewill?
4. Can you think of an example where you used your free will? Write this down.

Yetzer Tov & Yetzer Harah

Judaism believes that everyone has two opposing **inclinations**, the **inclination to do good** –the **Yetzer Tov** and the **inclination to do wrong** – the **Yetzer Harah**.

Both the Yetzer Tov and Yetzer Harah are needed for us to be human.



Task 5

First, draw a table in your jotter.

Yetzer Tov	Yetzer Harah

Next, look at the list below:

- Giving to charity
- Eating too much
- Worrying about those around you
- Being selfish
- Gossiping

Finally, decide which of these are the Yetzer Tov and which are the Yetzer Harah.

The Covenant

Judaism says that Adam, Moses, Abraham, and David each entered into special relationship with G-d called a covenant.

G-d's side of each of these covenants was to teach people how he expected them to live, and to bless them and look after them forever.

The Jews' side of the covenant was to worship the one true G-d and obey G-d's commandments (mitzvot).

The first covenant

The first covenant was between G-d and Abraham.

Judaism is a very old religion and began about 4000 years ago in a country called Babylon (it's now called Iraq). It is not a religion with one founder (person who started it) but it has many great leaders. The first great leader of Judaism was a man called Abraham.

Task 6

First, read the story of how and why the covenant was made between G-d and Abraham.

Next, answer the following questions:

1. Where did Abraham live?
2. Why was Abraham not happy? What did he choose to do because of this?
3. Why are Jewish men circumcised?
4. What would God do in return for the people obeying Him?
5. What did G-d give Abraham and Sarah despite their age?
6. How did G-d test Abraham's obedience to him?

Finally, draw a picture of one of the scenes from the story.

Abraham lived in a city called Ur. He wanted for nothing; he had a great wife, many servants and much wealth. However, Abraham was not happy. He looked around him at life in the city and was saddened

because people drank a lot, gambled, and gave human sacrifices to the many G-ds they worshipped.

The more Abraham thought about this the worse he felt. He felt in his heart that there was only one true G-d, a G-d that would not be pleased with human sacrifice. This led Abraham to leave the city of Ur to go wandering in the wilderness.

As Abraham and his wife travelled, he felt closer and closer to G-d. This was a time when Abraham built a special relationship with G-d. G-d told him that he would become a great father of nations; these people would be known as Jews. As part of the Covenant between Abraham and G-d, Jewish men are circumcised as a symbol of this covenant:

"You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you." Genesis 17

G-d promised to make Abraham the father of a great people and said that Abraham and his descendants must obey G-d.

In return G-d would guide them and protect them and give them the land of Israel.

G-d ordered Abraham to abandon his way of life and leave his home country to live in the land of Canaan. Abraham was 99 at the time, so this was a hard thing to ask. The LORD said:

"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."

Source Genesis 12:1-2

This promise that Abraham would become the father of a great nation seemed impossible, since Abraham was very old, and his wife Sarah (90) had never been able to have children.

But G-d did cause Sarah to become pregnant with Isaac. By doing this G-d showed that he was in control of even the processes of nature like having children. G-d also showed that in order to keep his promises to his chosen people he would intervene in the world and alter it.

Later, G-d tested Abraham's obedience by ordering him to kill his much-loved son Isaac as a sacrifice. Abraham didn't argue with G-d, he kept

his side of the covenant and prepared to sacrifice Isaac. G-d stopped him from killing his son.

The second Covenant

The second covenant was made between G-d and Moses.

Task 7

First read the story of how Moses freed the Israelite's.

Next create a story board using the following headings to help you:

1. The Pharaoh killed the Jewish baby boys.
2. Moses was saved.
3. Moses killed a Guard.
4. The burning bush.
5. The 10 plagues of Egypt.
6. Parting the red sea.

Finally create an image to show the 10 plagues G-d sent.

For many years the Jews had been slaves in Egypt. The Egyptians were very cruel to the Jews; making them work long hours with little food or water and their living conditions were poor. The Pharaoh of Egypt at that time watched the Jews and grew scared that they would one day soon become more powerful than him. He felt the only solution was to order the death of all Jewish baby boys at birth (girls were not seen as a threat at this time). Around this time, in a simple and small house, a happy occasion was being celebrated, the birth of a healthy baby boy by the name of Moses. He was adored by his family and they could not bare the thought of him being murdered by the Pharaoh's army. His mother hatched a plan.

She placed baby Moses in a basket and brought him to the river. Her instincts told her this was his only chance- she pushed the basket out into the water and said a prayer for her son. Luckily he was found by the Pharaoh's daughter who fell in love with the child as soon as she saw him. She begged her father to bring him up as his own in the palace. Her father agreed. Moses had the perfect life and grew up wanting for nothing. But when he was a young man he became unhappy because he did not like the way the Jewish slaves were treated. One day Moses watched a slave driver and was enraged with the cruel way in which he

treated the Jews. He killed the man. Moses was a good person and this was all too much for him so he fled Egypt.

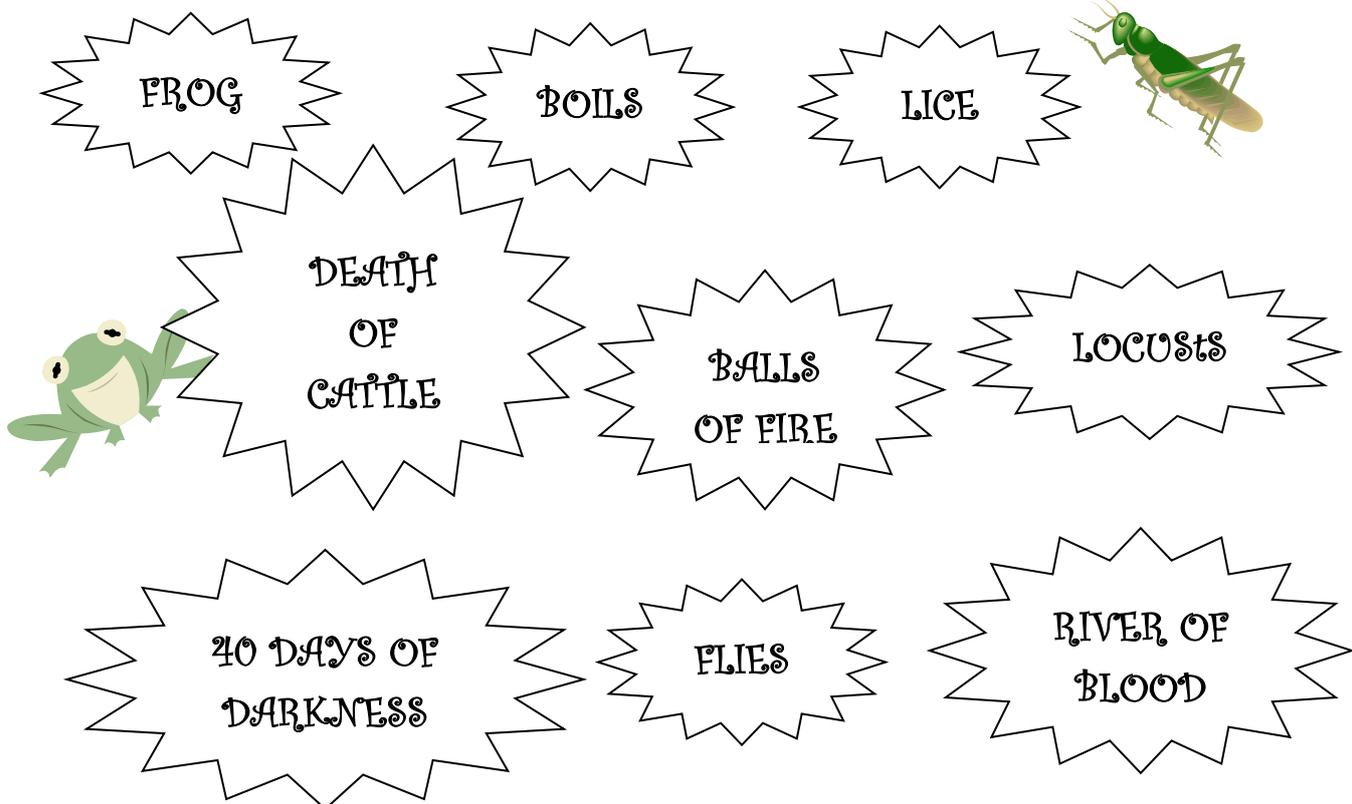
He lived in the desert for many years after this event, herding goats and such like. That was until one day something very strange happened – Moses came across a bush that was on fire. It appeared to be strange to him as the flames were very different to that of a normal fire; they were blue and cold. Moses was scared, especially when he heard a voice coming from the flames. The voice was that of G-d's. He told Moses that he must return and free the Jewish slaves. This frightened Moses and he thought it would be impossible – he was only one man against a whole army. G-d reassured Moses that when the time came he would have help.

Moses did as G-d said and returned to Egypt. He went straight to the Pharaoh who laughed out loud when he asked him to free the Jews. Moses left but was not undeterred and returned again.

"LET MY PEOPLE GO!!" Moses demanded.

"NO, NO, NO!!" Pharaoh replied.

After a third attempt G-d gave Moses a helping hand – the plagues!



These plagues came and the Egyptians suffered but still the Pharaoh would not let the Jews go. That was until the tenth plague; the death of the eldest son. G-d told Moses that all Jews should mark their doors with lambs' blood. That night the angel of death passed over Egypt and killed all of the eldest boys in each family. The Jewish houses were safe because they had marked their doors.

The Pharaoh was devastated by this plague, he had lost his own son. This was the final straw, the Pharaoh finally let the Jewish slaves go.

The Jews quickly gathered their belongings and fled Egypt. They set off on a journey to the Promise Land, that which had been spoken of in the time of Abraham. However, the pharaoh was renowned for being of changeable nature and had sent an army to re-capture the Jews. The Jews were terrified when they realised this and especially so when they reached the Sea of Reeds (Red Sea) with no means to cross.

They were trapped. Moses knew that G-d would help them and so he did by parting the Sea. *"Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided."***Exodus 14:21**

All of the Jews managed to cross safely and when the last person had reached the other side the water came crashing down upon the approaching army. Finally, they were safe. This was not the end of their journey, they had still to get to the Promised Land.

The 10 commandments

Moses was known as the second great leader of Judaism, he is remembered for freeing the Jewish slaves from the Egyptian Pharaoh. Once the Jews were free Moses led them into the desert, which was the start of a forty-year journey to the Promise Land. During this time G-d spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai to give him and his people guidelines for living.

Task 8

First you will research the 10 commandments given by G-d to Moses.

Next you will write them down below.

Finally you will circle the ones that are still relevant today.

The 10 Commandments

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Passover

Pesach or Passover is a Jewish festival of celebration and remembrance – to remember the time when Jews were slaves in Egypt as well as to think about those in the world who are persecuted and incarcerated. It begins on the 15th day of the Jewish month of Nisan and lasts for eight days.

A special meal called a Seder is eaten to remember the Exodus story.

1. **MAROR or BITTER HERBS**

This would typically be horseradish to represent the bitterness of slavery.



2. **CHAROSET**

Is a paste mix of nuts, fruit and wine that represents the building in Egypt at the time of slavery as well as the sweetness of freedom.



3. **KARPAS or GREEN VEGETABLE**

This is usually parsley which is dipped in salt water; the green vegetable represents the wilderness that the Jews roamed in after their escape.



4. **SALT WATER**

This is to dip the green vegetable into and is representative of the tears of the slaves

5. **Z'ROA or SHANKBONE**

The shankbone (sheep leg) is roasted and represents the lamb's blood that protected the Jewish boys from the angel of death



6. **BEITZAH or ROASTED EGG**

The hard-boiled and roasted egg is symbolic of new life



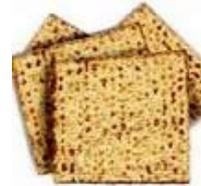
7. THE FOUR CUPS

Four sips of wine (or grape juice) are drunk at specific times during the meal; the four sips represent the four promises from G-d or the four worlds to come or four special Jewish ladies



8. MATZOT or UNLEVENED BREAD

These are like crackers. 3 matzos are on the Seder table, they represent the unleavened bread the escaped Jews had to eat



Task 9

First you will answer the questions below:

1. What do Jewish people remember during Passover?
2. When does Passover take place?
3. What is the special meal that is eaten to remember the Exodus story?

Next you will design your own Seder plate.

