

Key Stage 2 RE: Judaism

Name of unit: How does remembering maintain Jewish identity?	
Expected Outcomes Pupils will be able to: Understand and explain about three Jewish festivals and the stories connected to them: Rosh Hashanah, Purim and Chanukah. Make links between the stories of Esther and Judas Maccabee and the continuing survival of Jews. Examine diversity within these festivals.	
Developmental Focus Opportunities • To understand how the identity of a religion has been under constant challenge through history • To know the importance that the role festivals play in maintaining the religion • To develop further the learners understanding of what a Jewish identity is • To further understanding of different religions and cultures from around the world	
Key Learning Points	Powerful Knowledge
• Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Jewish new year. • Customs and celebrations associated with Rosh Hashanah vary among Jewish communities. • Sweet foods, such apples and pomegranates, are eaten during Rosh Hashanah symbolising a sweet new year. • We can use data and interviews to understand Rosh Hashanah better. • Rosh Hashanah is followed by ten days of penitence, leading to the festival of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. • People reflect on the past year asking forgiveness for things that they have done wrong. • They also think about the year ahead and what is important. • Special readings and prayers are said at services and the shofar horn is blown. • The Jewish festival of Purim remembers Esther, queen of Persia, who was secretly Jewish. • Haman, the king's chief minister, hated Jews and plotted to have all the Jews killed. • Esther bravely told the king that she was Jewish and pleaded with him. • The story symbolises the survival of Jews in the face of adversity.	Learners will understand what a shared human experience is and know how they help people reflect, celebrate and find hope and that that is something many cultures do but in different ways. They will use interviews and data to explore traditions and understand more about diversity and why it matters. Learners will be able to discuss and share their understanding of forgiveness, bravery, hope and celebration and relate these to their everyday experiences.

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- Interpretations of the Purim story helps us to understand Jewish identity.
- During Purim the story of Esther is read at the synagogue.
- There are different local customs connected to Purim such as acting out the story and wearing fancy dress.
- Special foods are eaten including symbolic pastries.
- The festival reminds Jews of God's power to save them and overcome evil.
- It is traditional to give to charity and to give gifts of food.
- Hanukkah is a Jewish festival.
- It recalls the victory and freedom of Jews when they were oppressed by the Greek Empire.
- King Antiochus demanded that Jews bowed down to statues of him. Judah Maccabee and other Jews fought back.
- They repaired the temple and lit the oil lamp in the holiest place.
- The festival traditionally lasts for eight days to celebrate the miracle of the oil lasting eight days.
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- Hannukah is celebrated by lighting the menorah each night.
- Special food, fried in oil, may be eaten such as doughnuts and latkes.
- Games are played such as dreidel and songs may be sung.
- Often gifts or money are given on each night.

Subject-Specific Vocabulary

- **Challah** - sweet bread baked in a circular shape eaten at Rosh Hashanah
- **Shana Tovah** - traditional greeting used at Rosh Hashanah
- **Rosh Hashanah** - festival to mark the beginning of the Jewish New Year
- **Resolution** - a firm decision to do or not do something
- **Penitence** - the feeling of regret for one's wrongdoing
- **Shofar** - a ram's horn that is blown like a trumpet
- **Yom Kippur** - the Day of Atonement
- **Rosh Hashanah** - festival to mark the beginning of the Jewish New Year
- **Antisemitism** - prejudice, discrimination, or hostility toward Jews

Reading Opportunities

Hanukkah (Celebrations and Festivals)
 The Miracle of Hanukkah by Malachy Doyle
 Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

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- **Identity** - qualities and characteristics that make up an individual or group
- **Persecution** - cruel treatment of a person or group by another person or group over a long period of time
- **Hamantaschen** - triangular pastries
- **Purim** - a festival that commemorates the saving of the ancient Jewish community in Persia
- **Mitzvah** - a good deed
- **Charity** - giving help to people in need
- **Hanukkah** - Jewish festival of light celebrated in Autumn
- **Oppressed** - treated in a way that is cruel or not fair
- **Sacred** - an object or place that is set apart to be holy
- **Desecrate** - to destroy the sacredness of an object or place
- **Menorah** - a seven-branched candle-holder used as a symbol of Judaism
- **Hannukiah** - a candlestick with nine branches, used at Hannukah
- **Dreidel** - a four-sided spinning top, played during the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah
- **Latke** - a type of potato pancake or fritter that is traditionally prepared to celebrate Hanukkah
- **Gelt** - is money given as presents during the Jewish festival of Hanukkah

Possible Misconceptions

All Jews celebrate Rosh Hashanah in the same way.
 All festivals are times of celebration and joy.
 Antisemitism is a modern experience.
 All festivals are solemn.
 A menorah is just a decorative candle-holder.
 A menorah is just a decoration for a window.

Cross-Curricular Links

PSHE: Reflecting on actions and forgiveness
 Literacy: Exploring stories of real heroes like Esther
 Maths (Data Handling): Using surveys or interviews to explore how people celebrate today
 Art/DT: Designing menorahs or costumes for Purim.