

RE Wednesday 24th February 2021

WALT: name and talk about some important parts of a synagogue.

People with a faith often go to a special place of worship. Christians go to a Church, Muslims go to a Mosque, Hindus go to a temple and **Jewish** people go to a **synagogue**. However, at the moment all of these visits are probably virtual.

A little while ago, we asked you to think about your special place.

Today we are learning about a **synagogue**, the special place where **Jewish** people go to:

- pray,
- worship,
- learn about their religion,
- spend time with other Jewish people
- and celebrate special events e.g. weddings.



Use the link below to see the inside of a synagogue and find out about important parts of it.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zcfgkqt>

Ask a grown up to read the information about parts of the synagogue. Try to **answer the questions** about them. You **do not** have to write your answers down unless you want to. You can just talk about it.

The Ark

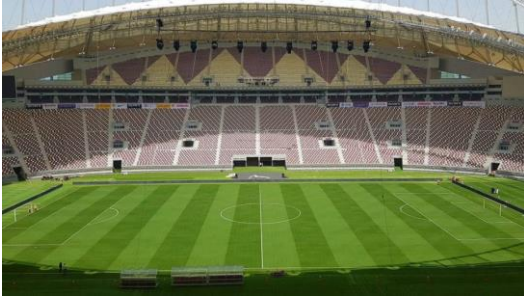
To look after their special book, every synagogue has an **ark**. This is a special place where the Torah is kept. It is often on the main wall of the synagogue and impressively decorated.



Jewish people keep the Torah in a special place.

Question Do you have anything that you keep in a special place at home? This maybe something that is very special or precious to you?

Question Why do you keep your precious item somewhere safe?



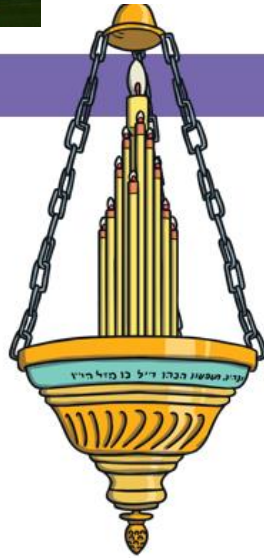
Interesting fact from the video!

If the Torah was to be completely unrolled it would be the length of a football pitch!

Eternal Light



In some synagogues, there is a light above the **ark**. This is called the Eternal Light. Its name comes from a verse in the Torah which says an eternal flame should burn in the temple all the time. It is also a reminder of the candles in the Temple in Jerusalem that stayed lit, which Jews believe was a miracle of God.



Prayer Room



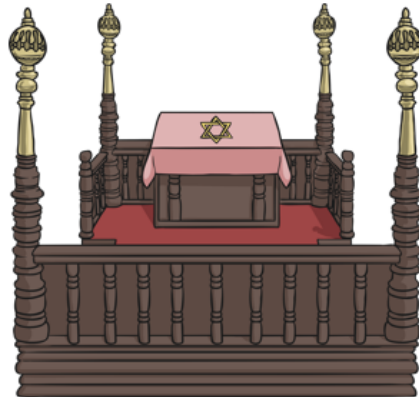
This is where many Jews gather to pray together. In some synagogues, men sit in a different area to the women. Men wear a special shawl, called a **tallit**, when they pray.



The Bimah



The Jewish special book is called the Torah. It is sacred to Jewish believers. The **bimah** is a raised platform where the Torah is placed when it is to be read from. This is often in the middle of the room, or at the end of the room near the **ark**. The **cantor** stands here, too.



The Cantor



This person has a special place in the room to stand. They chant prayers for the rest of the people to join in with.



Can you solve these questions?

Can you guess which object from a synagogue this might be?

- ✓ I am on the main wall of the synagogue.
- ✓ I look after the Jewish special book.
- ✓ I am impressive to look at.



Can you guess which object from a synagogue this might be?

- ✓ I am worn by men.
- ✓ I am blue and white.
- ✓ I help show respect during prayer.



Can you guess which object from a synagogue this might be?

- ✓ I am where the cantor stands.
- ✓ I am where the Torah is placed.
- ✓ I am in the centre of the room.



Well done! You have learnt about a place of worship. This will help you to understand how other people live their lives. Understanding this helps you to respect other people and their differences. Respect is one of our values.