



WHY IS THE TORAH IMPORTANT IN JUDAISM? Knowledge Organiser Term 4


Key Vocabulary	
Judaism	The religion of Jewish people
Orthodox	Those who follow traditional Jewish practices
Reform	Jewish people who take a more modern approach and do not follow the traditional rules as rigidly. These communities are also known as progressive
Sefer Torah	The Jewish scriptures, which include the first 5 books of the Old Testament. A Sefer Torah is a large scroll containing these texts, usually kept in the synagogue.
Shema	The most ancient Jewish prayer in the Torah. It proclaims that there is only one God.
Tefillin	Small black leather cubic boxes (with straps for wearing) that containing verses from the Torah.
Kosher	Foods which Jewish people are allowed to eat
Hescher	A symbol on food to show that it is kosher.
Ark	Holy cabinet in a synagogue where the Torah is kept.
Ner tamid	A light that hangs above the ark in every synagogue which is always kept alight.
Bimah	The raised platform in a synagogue from which the torah is read.
Avot melakhah	The list of all the things that Jewish people are not allowed to do on the sabbath (Shabbat).




Ner tamid



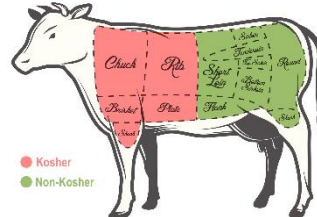
Man wearing tefillin




Sefer Torah



Bimah



An example of kosher / non-kosher meat.



An example of an ark in the synagogue

Key Knowledge	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">There are two main types of Jewish community: Orthodox, who follow traditional rules and Reform, who take a more modern approach.The Shema, from the book of Deuteronomy is the most ancient and important prayer in Judaism and proclaims that there is one God.Some Jewish people (usually orthodox males) will strap tefillin to their arms and head so that they carry the sacred texts with them.Jewish communities place a high value on coming together to recall the past, to tell stories of God’s dealings with the Jewish people, to practise following God’s commands, and to celebrate together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jewish people follow rules about which foods they can eat. Meat should be from animals with split hooves and which chew the cud; fish should have fins and scales - no eating shellfish; no eating insects; milk and meat should not be eaten together. Food that can be eaten is called kosher.The Sefer Torah is a scroll containing the first five books of the bible. It is handled with great respect and care. It is kept in the ark in the synagogue over which hangs the ner tamid, a lamp that is always alight. The Torah is read from the bimah during services, when a special pointer called a yad is used to avoid touching the scroll.The Jewish day of rest (or sabbath) is called Shabbat. There are many rules about what Jewish people are not allowed to do: no working, no cooking.no driving, no using the telephone, no laundry, no handling of money.