



Name:..... Form:.....

See **pages 14 and 15** of Jewish synagogue

Looking at a daily prayer

**The Shema is one of the most important prayers in Judaism.
Here is part of the Shema.**

Hear, Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One.

Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

And these words that I command you today shall be in your heart.

And you shall teach them diligently to your children, and you shall speak of them when you sit at home, and when you walk along the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up.

And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be frontlets between your eyes.

And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

And the Lord spoke to Moses saying,

Speak to the Children of Israel and say to them, they should make themselves tzitzit on the corners of their clothing throughout their generations, and give the tzitzit of each corner a thread of blue.

And they shall be tzitzit for you, and when you look at them you will remember all of the Lord's commandments and do them and not follow after your heart and after your eyes, which lead you astray.

Underline in red the parts of the Shema that talk about the mezuzah.

Underline in blue the parts of the Shema that talk about wearing the tallit, tzitzit and tefillin.

Underline in green the parts of the Shema that talk about praying several times each day.

Why do you think Jewish people say this prayer every day?



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Activity objectives

- To understand where some Jewish traditions come from.
- To read and interpret a passage.

Preparation and resources

The student book (optional).

Introducing the activity

This unit should be done after Unit 2 'Inside the synagogue' and Unit 5 'Special clothing'. You may want to begin by asking the children what rules they have at home or at school and where these rules came from (parent, teacher, themselves, and so on). Review with the children that many Jewish customs and beliefs come from things written in the Torah. Tell the children that in ancient times, Jewish people studied the Torah to find rules to live by. In this exercise the children are going to look at one of the things written in the Torah, a prayer, and see if they can find what rules (commandments) are in it.

Teaching notes

The Shema is considered one of the most important prayers in Judaism and is recited twice a day by observant Jews. It is also probably the oldest fixed prayer in Judaism. Its origins are not known, but it has been recited daily at least since the 6th century BCE.

The Shema is the source for many Jewish customs – the mezuzah, the wearing of the tefillin and the tzitzit, praying three times each day; and of the importance of teaching Torah and the commandments to children.

The Shema is made up of three passages from the Torah, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Deuteronomy 11:13-21 and Numbers 15:37-41. Only the first and last sections of the Shema are given on the worksheet. The middle section, Deuteronomy 11:13-21 describes God's rewards for following the commandments and punishments for not following them.

Concluding the activity

Let the children compare their answers. The children could make a class list for things we do every day and discuss their importance. They could be broken down into categories, such as things we have to do, things we like to do, and so on.

Activity outcomes

- The children can demonstrate their ability to read critically.
- The children can identify where some Jewish customs come from.

Complementary work

The children could find the entire Shema by looking up each section it is made up from in a Bible. The children could use ICT resources or a siddur to look up an English translation of another important prayer said every day, called the Shemoneh Esrei or Amidah.

Resources

Secondary sources on Jewish liturgy, a siddur, a Bible.