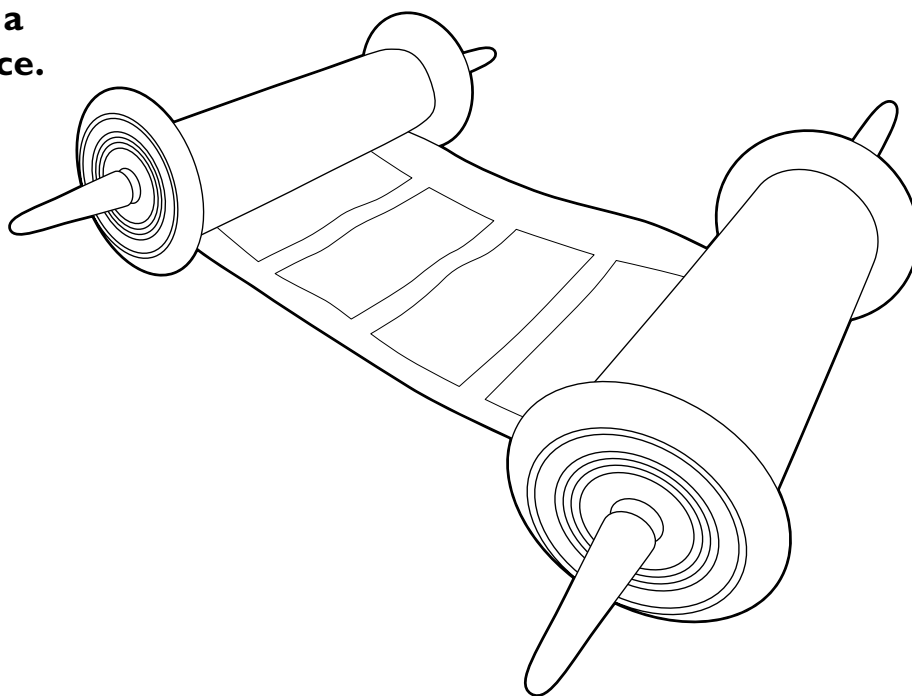



# Shabbat and the Torah

On Shabbat, there is a special worship service.



**Q1.** How much of the Torah is read in one year?  .....

**Q2.** Where are the Torah scrolls kept when they are not being read?

 .....

**Q3.** Where are the Torah scrolls placed when they are being read?

 .....

**Q4.** Who can read from the Torah during worship?

 .....

**Q5.** Why is a *yad* used when reading from the Torah?

 .....

**Q6.** Give one other thing that may happen during Shabbat worship.

 .....



## Answers

1. The whole thing.
2. In the Ark.
3. On the bimah.
4. Anyone over 13 who knows how.
5. So the scrolls are not damaged by the oils in our hands.
6. A sermon from the rabbi; a portion from the Book of Prophets is read.

## Lesson objectives

- ▶ To learn some of the things that happen at a synagogue on Shabbat.
- ▶ To learn about how the Torah is used in worship on Shabbat.

## Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children know that the Shabbat service is different from everyday worship.
- ▶ The children know that the Torah is read out loud during Shabbat worship.

## Teaching notes

*The Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) begins at sundown on Friday and lasts until sundown on Saturday. Observant Jews believe that they are forbidden from performing many kinds of work on Shabbat, including: reaping, sowing, kindling a fire, tying, cooking, buying, selling and many other things. Most Jews do not observe these restrictions, but many observant Jews do. Students can also be made aware that the most important part of Shabbat actually occurs at home on Friday night, when the family gathers for a special meal and blessings.*

## Reading from the Torah

*Over the course of a year, the entire Torah is read out loud in the synagogue. Each week, a different passage is read. So, on the first week of the year, Genesis 1:1-6.8 is read. It is considered an honour to be called up to read from the Torah or to say a blessing over the Torah. Some large synagogues employ a person called a chazzan, or cantor to recite the Torah and to lead the service. Professional chazzan are ordained clergy and are also trained in music and singing. The rabbi and chazzan will work together to educate and inspire the congregation.*

## Complementary work

The children could use secondary sources to find out about the role of the chazzan. They can use ICT resources or tapes to listen to the Torah being recited.

## Resources

Tapes of a professional chazzan reciting the Torah or computer with internet link and speakers.