



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

See **pages 22 and 23** of Jewish synagogue

A house of gathering

The synagogue is the centre of the Jewish community.

Wednesday

6.30 a.m. Morning services

1.00 p.m. Afternoon services

1.30–3 p.m. Seniors group

3–4 p.m. Mummy (or Daddy) and me. Bring your baby and meet other new or expectant parents for socialising and discussion.

7.30 p.m. Evening services

7.45 p.m. Bi-weekly prayer meeting 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.


Q1. Above is a timetable for Wednesday at the synagogue.

How many times are there worship services on Wednesday? 

Q2. What social groups are meeting at the synagogue on Wednesday?





Q3. What is the Hebrew word for charity? 

Q4. List two things that might happen at a synagogue that are not about religion.





Q5. What year was the modern country of Israel founded? 

Q6. What events do some synagogues put on for people interested in learning about Israel?



Answers

1. **Three.**
2. **Seniors group, Mummy (or Daddy) and me.**
3. **Tzedakah**
4. **Film screening, lecture, bridge club, men's and women's clubs, youth clubs.**
5. **1948.**
6. **Lectures, talks, trips.**

Complementary work

The children could look up various Jewish charitable organisations. The children could calculate how much tzedakah they would have to give for various levels of income (allowances are not subject to tzedakah). They only pay on their income after taxes and expenses like rent, food, medical bills, and so on.

Resources

Secondary sources on Jewish charities.

Lesson objectives

- ▶ To show that the synagogue is a house of gathering for the community.
- ▶ To show some of the things that happen in the synagogue that have to do with the community.
- ▶ To show the importance of charity and learning about Israel for Jewish people.

Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children can identify community activities that take place in the synagogue.
- ▶ The children know that the synagogue is a house of gathering for the community.

Teaching notes

Every synagogue has different community activities. Some may host singles nights or various charity events. Others may be too small for large gatherings and may simply have a Friday evening meal or small meetings.

There are several commandments in Judaism about giving to charity, and so raising money for charity is an important community event at most synagogues. One commandment requires Jewish people to give one-tenth of their income (after taxes) to charity.