

Judaism Session 2

Aims:

- To learn about an important milestone in the journey of Jewish life: bar / bat mitzvah
- To consider and compare important milestones, ceremonies and celebrations in our own lives

What will we be doing in this session?

To explore what happens at a Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah ceremony.

Success Criteria

- I can explain what becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah recognises.
- I can discuss at what age children should be responsible for their own actions.



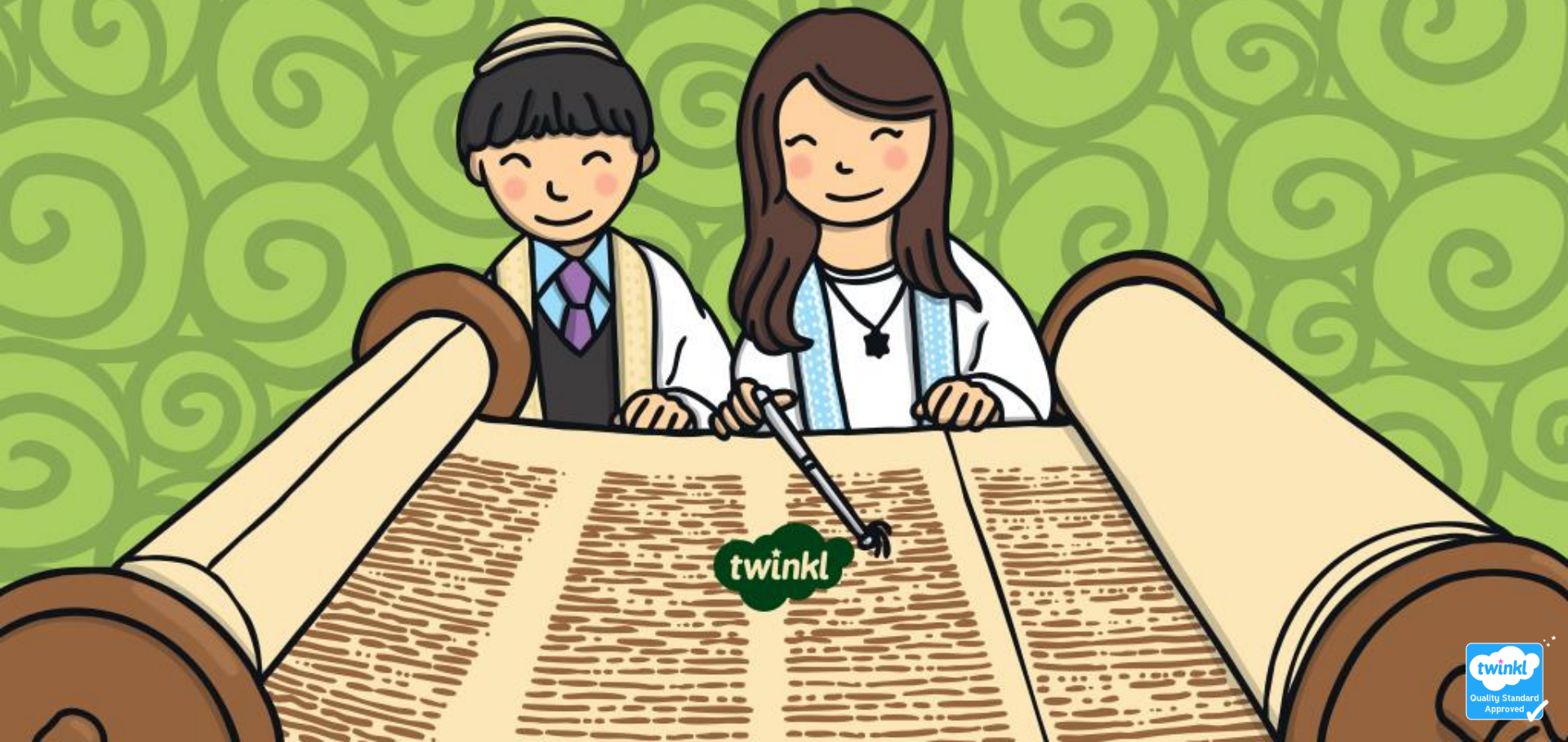
What important celebrations or ceremonies have you and your family had in your life?

Have a think and then put your hand up to share.

You might have said a birthday, or a wedding or maybe a baptism. We are going to look at an important celebrations in a Jewish person's life.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

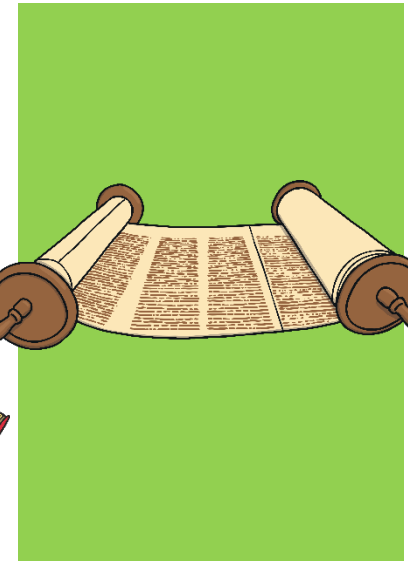
Judaism



Which Religion?



Look at these pictures.
Which religion do you think these pictures represent?



Today, we will be learning about a ceremony from Judaism.

Learning about Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs



What Is a Bar Mitzvah?

Bar Mitzvah means 'Son of the Commandment'. A Jewish boy becomes a Bar Mitzvah when he is thirteen years old. Then, he is responsible for his actions and must follow Jewish rules.

Many families celebrate this with a special ceremony. This ceremony is also called a Bar Mitzvah.



Learning about Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs



What Is a Bat Mitzvah?

Bat Mitzvah means 'Daughter of the Commandment'. A Jewish girl becomes a Bat Mitzvah when she is twelve years old. Then, she is responsible for her actions and must follow Jewish rules.

Many families celebrate this with a special ceremony. This ceremony is also called a Bat Mitzvah.



Learning about Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs

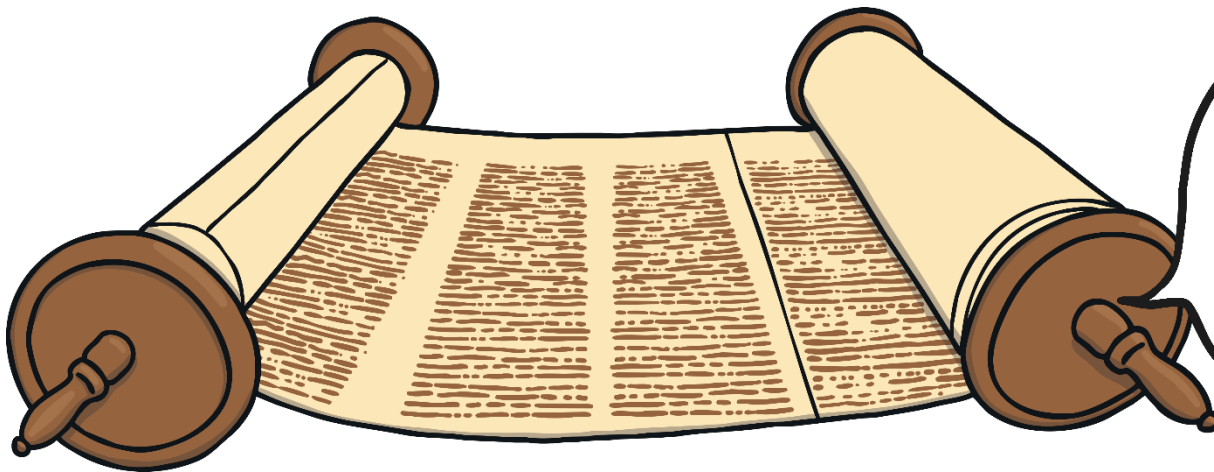


A Rite of Passage

Becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is a 'rite of passage'.

This means it is part of growing up.

Young Jewish people spent a lot of time preparing for their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. They read their holy book and learn about their faith.



Tell a
friend...
What is a
'holy book'?

Learning about Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs

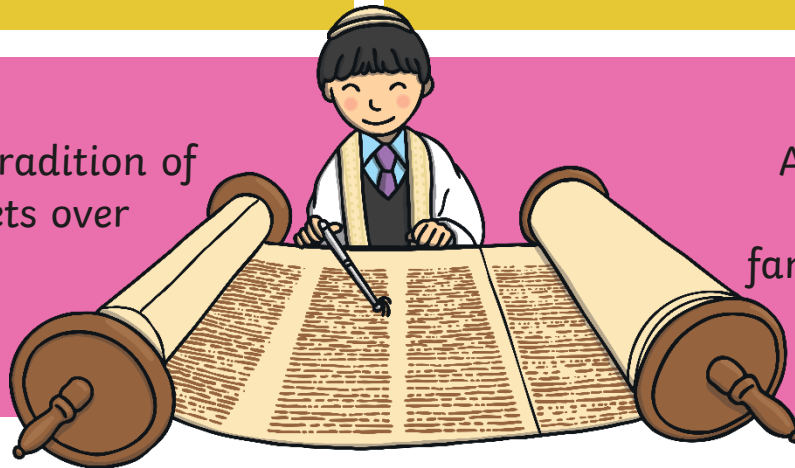


The Bar Mitzvah Ceremony

In the synagogue, the Bar Mitzvah reads from the Torah. He gives a speech to explain the parts of the Torah that he has learned about. He also thanks his parents.

He will also say a special blessing over the Torah.

Some Jews have the tradition of throwing Kosher sweets over the Bar Mitzvah after his readings.



After a Bar Mitzvah ceremony, many families have a party or celebration.

Learning about Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs



The Bat Mitzvah Ceremony

In an Orthodox synagogue, a Bat Mitzvah will not sing, but will speak instead.

She will normally speak about something important to her that she has learned about.



At their Bat Mitzvah, girls may read a prayer that is special to them. The prayer is about how women are worth more than rubies or diamonds.

In a Reform synagogue, the Bat Mitzvah ceremony can be very similar to the Bar Mitzvah ceremony.

After a Bat Mitzvah ceremony, many families have a party or celebration.



Here are two clips to watch. There may not be time to watch them now, but you can watch them after this session to really get a feel of what a Bat or Bar Mitzvah is like.

Click on this link to watch a clip about a Jewish girl's Bar Mitzvah.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDZuvPpzXCk>

Click on this link to watch a clip about a Jewish boy's Bar Mitzvah.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zm7tfg8>

Discussion



A Jewish girl has her Bat Mitzvah when she is 12 and a Jewish boy his Bar Mitzvah when he is 13.

Do you agree with 12 and 13 being a good age to become more responsible? Why or why not?

At what age do you think children should be responsible for their own decisions and actions?

At what age do you think you will be grown up?
How will you know you are grown up? What will you do differently, or think differently to how you do now?





Design your own Bat/Bar Mitzvah card to send to a Jewish Friend.

Mazel Tov = Congratulations/Good Luck in Hebrew. Can you include this Jewish phrase on your Card?



Now you have learnt all about Bat Mitzvahs and Bar Mitzvahs, and watched the two clips, you can see it really is something for young Jewish people to celebrate. They often have parties, and people send them cards and gifts. Your task is to design your own Bat or Bar Mitzvah card to send to a young Jewish friend.

Look at the card examples to get some good ideas!