

Why is the Torah so important for Jewish people?

Wonderful words

Torah: the Jewish Holy Book made of the five books of law

Sefer Torah: the scrolls containing the Torah which are kept in the ark in the synagogue

Orthodox: a worldview in Judaism following the traditional interpretation of Jewish law.

Pesach (Passover): the festival remembering the Israelites leaving slavery in Egypt

Synagogue: the Jewish place of worship sometimes called shul

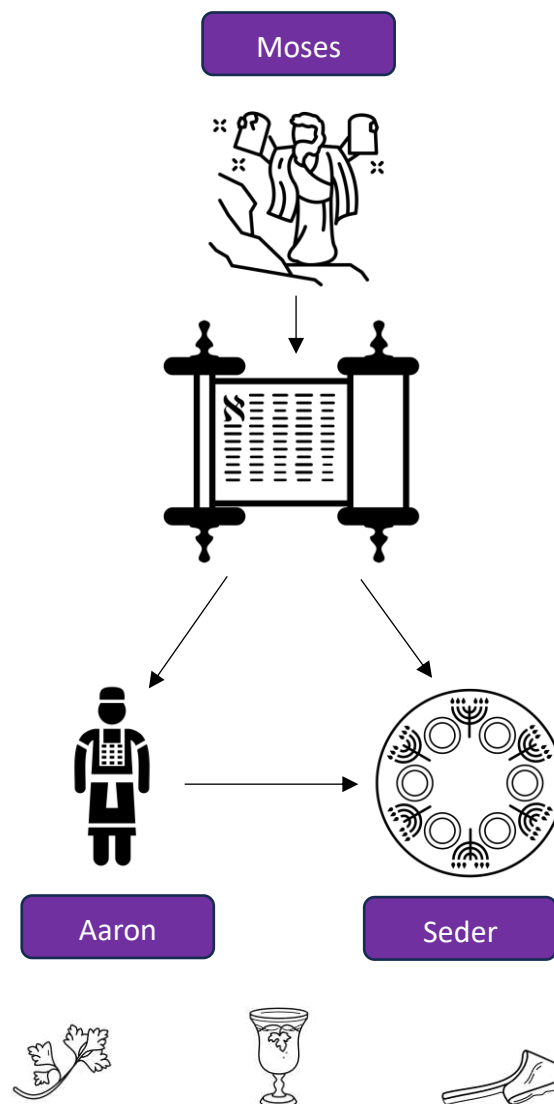
Kosher: something which follows Jewish laws

Progressive: worldview in Judaism which says that the laws of the Torah should be interpreted for modern day life

Kashrut: Jewish laws about the suitability of food

Secular: not connected with religious or spiritual matters

So how does it all work?



Important information

The Jewish people are a diverse group with different views about how the laws in the Torah are applied in everyday life.

The Torah is important to all Jewish people and every **synagogue** will have a **Sefer Torah** contained in an ark to show how important and special it is.

The Torah will tell Jewish people what God allows them to do and what God wants them to do. Anything that God allows Jewish people to do is known as **kosher**. When this is applied to what Jews can and cannot eat this is known as **kashrut**, for example a Jewish person cannot eat pork as God forbids it. **Orthodox** Jewish people will follow what God has told them exactly in the Torah as it is the word of God. **Progressive** Jewish people believe that the Torah was written by humans and reflects the place of God in the life of the author. They will interpret the Torah for modern day life as some of the laws cannot be followed today. **Secular** Jewish people identify as being Jewish but do not tend to identify with Jewish beliefs.

Pesach is a very important Jewish festival which can be celebrated differently by the different Jewish groups. Some Jewish people may choose to remember Miriam at Pesach whilst other Jewish people may have a vegan meal to reflect what they believe.