

What is a synagogue?

A synagogue is ONE building with
THREE different roles.

When did Judaism begin?

- Judaism began thousands of years ago near the modern country of Israel.
- Israel is very special to Jewish people. It is the land God promised to their ancestors.
- It is sometimes called the “Promised Land”



								
Tet (T)	Chet (Ch)	Zayin (Z)	Vav (V/O/U)	He (H)	Dalet (D)	Gimel (G)	Bet (B/V)	Alef (Silent)
								
Samech (S)	Nun (N)	Nun (N)	Mem (M)	Mem (M)	Lamed (L)	Khaf (Kh)	Kaf (K/Kh)	Yod (Y)
								
Tav (T/S)	Shin (Sh/S)	Resh (R)	Qof (Q)	Tzade (Tz)	Tzade (Tz)	Fe (F)	Pe (P/F)	Ayin (Silent)

- The ancient Jews spoke a language called Hebrew.
- Many important words, prayers and holy books in Judaism are written in Hebrew.
- The word “Synagogue” actually has three names in Hebrew. Each name stands for one of the ways in which the synagogue is used.

House of Gathering



- Beit HaKnesset is the Hebrew.
- It is a place for the Jewish community to come together for all types of meetings, celebrations and other community activities.

House of Prayer

- In Hebrew Beit HaTefillah.
- It is where Jews come to worship God.
- Jews also worship at home but worshipping with others is an important part of Judaism.



House of Learning

- Beit HaMidrash is the Hebrew.
- It is where Jews come to learn the Jewish language of Hebrew and to learn about Judaism.
- In most synagogues, children and adults can take classes in Hebrew, study important Jewish religious books and learn all about Judaism.