

2.9 Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people?

The Torah is the **most important and holy text in Judaism**. The word Torah comes from an old Hebrew word meaning '**to teach**'. Jewish people believe that the Torah contains instructions from God on how to live a good life.

The Torah is the first part of the Jewish bible. It is **the central and most important document of Judaism** and has been used by Jews through the ages.

Jewish people believe that the laws written down in the Torah were given by God; they are special laws that people should follow in order to please God. They believe that a prophet called **Moses** received the laws thousands of years ago. These are called **The Ten Commandments**.

The Torah is very special to Jewish people as it includes all of the instructions that God gave to Moses. Jewish people today use the Torah to help guide them in their lives.

Every synagogue has a **Sefer Torah**. This is a Torah written out by a specially trained scribe onto a special scroll.

Torah refers to the five books of Moses which are known in Hebrew as **Chameesha Choomshey Torah**. These are: **Bresheit (Genesis)**, **Shemot (Exodus)**, **Vayicra (Leviticus)**, **Bamidbar (Numbers)**, and **Devarim (Deuteronomy)**.

RE Knowledge Organiser - Year 5 - Judaism



The **Sefer Torah** is treated with great respect. It is not allowed to be touched by human hands.

When it is being read, a special stick called a **yad** is used to point to the words.



Key Vocabulary

Synagogue	Synagogue means 'bringing together' or 'assembly'. A synagogue is a place of worship, gathering and education about the Jewish faith.	Orthodox Jew	The religion of those Jews who follow strictly to traditional beliefs and practices. 
Rabbi	a spiritual leader or religious teacher in Judaism.	Progressive Jew	A collective term to refer to non-Orthodox movements within Judaism. 