Judaism is one of the oldest monotheistic religions in the world – over 3500 years old.

Monotheistic means a belief in one god (usually referred to as God or Yahweh).

Jewish people believe that God appointed them to be the “chosen people” and that they would set an example of holiness and ethical behavior to the world.

Jewish men praying at the Wailing Wall
Key Beliefs

- Judaism is the original of the three Abrahamic faiths, with the other two being Christianity and Islam.

- Each of these religions trace their origins to Abraham, who is credited with founding Judaism.

Abraham's Journey from Ur to Canaan by József Molnár
People are usually considered Jewish if their mother is Jewish, although some groups also accept children of Jewish fathers as Jewish.

Judaism is a community of faith. Jewish people believe that they should be judged by their actions (how much they contribute to the overall holiness of the world).

A Tzedakah box – money is kept here by Jewish families, to later be donated to charity.
There are around 13.6 million Jewish people in the world, most of which live in the USA or Israel.

Jewish people are located all over the world due to the diaspora (dispersion of people around the world).
Judaism has a rich history of religious text, but the central and most important religious text is the Torah.

The Torah is included in the Christian Bible, as it makes up the first five books of the Old Testament.
Worship Services

- Jewish spiritual leaders are called Rabbis and Jewish people worship at Synagogues.

A rabbi teaching Jewish children

The Great Synagogue of Florence, Italy
According to Jewish beliefs and practices, food should be kosher (meaning that it is “fit for consumption”; also must be handled and prepared in a proper way, according to the Torah).

Matza – Unleavened bread eaten by Jewish people during Passover.
The Jewish religion has a number of important holidays. Two of the most important are:

- **Hanukkah** – The Festival of Lights. An eight day festival commemoration the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

- **Passover** – Spring festival that commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery.