

Year: 5
 Term: Spring 1
 Topic: Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people?

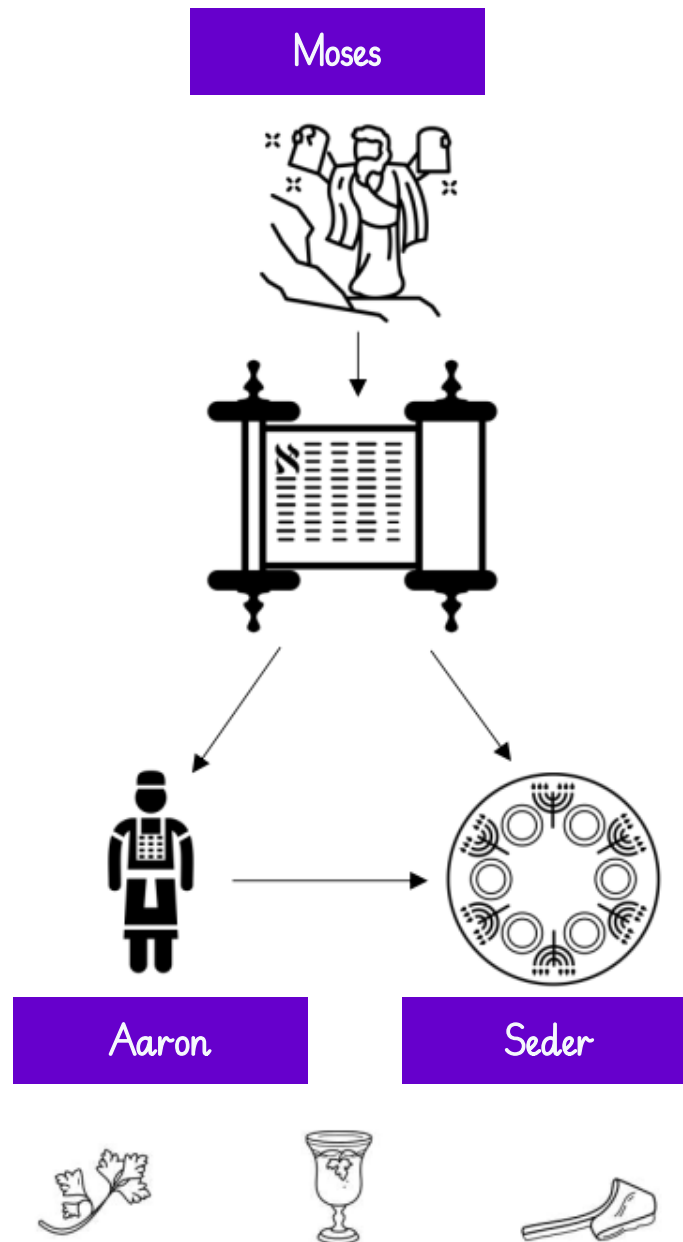
The Jewish people are a diverse group with different views about how the laws in the **Torah** are applied in everyday life.

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.

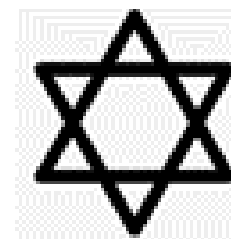
Orthodox Jewish people will follow what God has told them exactly in the Torah as it is the word of God.

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.



Glossary

- kashrut** Jewish laws about the suitability of food.
- kosher** Something which follows Jewish laws.
- Orthodox Jew** More traditional.
- Pesach** Passover. The festival remembering the Israelites leaving slavery in Egypt.
- Progressive Jew** Less traditional.
- Secular** Not connected with religious or spiritual matters.
- Sefer Torah** A handwritten scroll kept in the synagogue.
- Synagogue** Where Jews go to worship.
- Torah** Equivalent to the first five books of the Christian Bible.



Judaism