

Judaism Artefact Collection (JD-PACK)

This collection contains a variety of artefacts for teaching and learning about religious festivals, worship, art and faith. Using the artefacts can help bring religion to life and promote discussions.



Questions you could ask children about the artefacts

Initial Discussion

- What is this object?
- Does it resemble anything the children have seen?
- What do you think the item is used for and by whom?
- Which religious belief is it used by?
- Does anyone know what it is called? Learn how to pronounce the name.
- What does it represent?
- How might it be used?

Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

- **What do the objects tell us about the faith?** *This last question can be returned to at the end of the investigation.*

All About the Jewish Artefacts

Contents: -

1. Hanukkiah
2. Mezuzah Case
3. Sedar Plate
4. Miniature Torah Scroll
5. Rosh Hashanah Cards

Please note contents may vary.



1. Hanukkiah

Most famous symbol of Hanukkah (Jewish festival of lights). Nine-branched candelabra lit each night of Hanukkah. Often seen in house windows. The ninth candle placed in the centre is used to light the other candles. It is known as the 'Shammash' or 'helper' candle. The candles are lit one at a time across the eight nights of Hanukkah. The first candle is the one furthest right.

Talk about the importance of light. Enjoy hearing stories about Hanukkah and make Hanukkah cards.

2. Mezuzah Case

A small decorative case often placed on the doorposts of Jewish homes. It serves as a reminder of the Jewish people's covenant with God and their faith. Many Jewish people touch or kiss the mezuzah as they enter or leave the room. It is a useful artefact to explore Jewish homes, traditions and celebrations.

Use to prompt creative writing about a family placing a mezuzah on the door of their new home.

3. Sedar Plate

Special plate used during Passover (celebration of the story of Exodus). The Sedar plate would be used items such as:

Karpas- green vegetable like parsley to symbolise the spring harvest, dipped in salt water to represent tears.

Charoset- sweet mixture of fruit and nuts representing the mortar used for building bricks when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt.

Chazeret- bitter herbs such as romaine lettuce and endive to represent the bitterness of slavery.

Beitza- hardboiled egg to remember the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. A symbol of mourning and also to show the Jew's determination to keep their faith.

Maror- bitter herbs like horseradish to symbolise the suffering of the Israelites when they were slaves in Egypt.

Zeroa- a lamb bone representing the lamb sacrificed and brought to the temple the night before the Israelites left Egypt.

Also, on the table there would be Matzah (flat bread). This symbolises the haste with which the Israelites left Egypt, not having time for the bread to rise.

Use a template of a Sedar plate and draw or cut and stick symbolic food, along with names and meanings, to the plate.

4. Torah Scroll

Torah is the sacred text in Judaism. It is central to Jewish teachings and practices. The Torah guides Jewish people in their lives. The scripts from the Torah are handwritten onto scrolls. The scrolls are very precious.

Make own scrolls writing special messages or prayers on them.

5. Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah means 'head of the year' and is a special festival that celebrates the Jewish new year. The dates for the festival come from the Hebrew calendar, so the Jewish new year begins in the autumn. During Rosh Hashanah people ask themselves- what is the most important thing in my life? What have I achieved last year? What do I hope to achieve over the coming year?

Find out more about Rosh Hashanah and make own greeting cards. A common greeting on Rosh Hashanah cards is 'Shanah Tovah' which means 'a good year'.