

Jewish Religion and Culture:

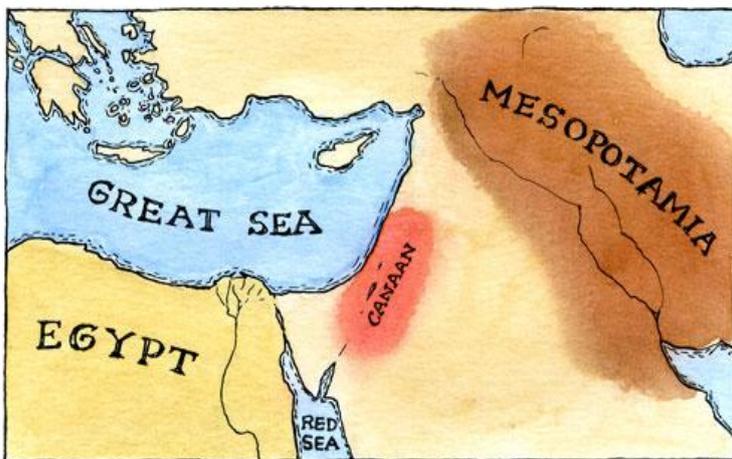
Key words: Jewish history, Bar Kokhba revolt, Balfour Declaration, Diaspora, Zionism, Theodor Herzl, State of Israel, Jew, Ashkenazim, Sephardim, Tanakh, Judaism, Yiddish, Klezmer, Ghetto, Yarmulke, Anne Frank, the Rotschild Family, Business, Wealth, Kashrut, Brit milah, Rabbi, Synagogue, Sabbath, Golem

Brief Jewish History:

Patriarchs:

- According to the Torah, **God** promised the **Land of Israel** (=.....) to the three Patriarchs of the Jewish people:, his son, and Isaac's son (somewhere between 1991 and 1706 BCE).

Slavery in Egypt and return to Canaan:



- **Jacob** and his **twelve** sons left Canaan during a severe famine and **settled in** While in Egypt their descendants were enslaved by the Egyptians.
- **After 400 years of slavery**, the God of Israel, sent the Hebrews prophet **Moses** to release them from Egyptian bondage. They emigrated out of Egypt and returned to **their homeland in Canaan**. This event marks the formation of Israel as a political nation in Canaan (around **1400 BCE**).

Kings David and Solomon:

- Around 1000 BCE, an Israelite monarchy was established under **Saul**, and continued under King **David** and his son, **Solomon**.
- During the reign of David, **Jerusalem** became the national and spiritual capital of Israel.

Israel and Judea:

- After Solomon died, **the nation split into two states**, **Israel** consisting of ten tribes (north), and the **Kingdom of Judea** (south).
- **Israel** was conquered by the Assyrians in the 8th century BCE. The tribes of Israel slowly assimilated and perished.

Babylonian captivity (from 586 BCE):

- **Judea** was conquered by a Babylonian army in 586 BCE and the Jews were **captured and deported to Babylonia**.

Persians:

- 539 BCE: conquest of Babylonia by the **Persians**.

Alexander the Great:

- In 332 BCE the Persians were defeated by **Alexander the Great**. Judea was administrated by the Greeks.

Roman rule in the land of Israel (63 BCE - 324 CE):

- Judea was conquered by the Romans in 63 BCE.

Bar Kokhba revolt of 132-136 CE:

- 985 villages were destroyed and most of the Jewish population of **central Judaea was essentially wiped out, killed, sold into slavery, or forced to flee**. Exiled from Jerusalem, the Jewish population now centered in **Galilee**. Jerusalem was renamed Aelia Capitolina.
- **Destruction of Judea after Bar Kokhba revolt** had a decisive influence upon the **dispersion** (=.....) of the Jewish people throughout the world.

Byzantine period in the land of Israel (324 - 638):

Islamic period in the land of Israel (638 - 1099):

Ottoman period in the land of Israel: (1526 - 1620):

WWI:

- During World War I British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour issued what became known as the **Balfour Declaration (1917)**, which "*view[ed] with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people*".

Mandate over Palestine:

- In 1922, the **League of Nations** granted the (country) a **mandate over Palestine**. By the end of World War II, the Jewish population of Palestine had increased to 33% of the total population in Palestine.

The state of Israel:

- Israel independent from **May**

Judaism:

- Is the "*religion, philosophy, and way of life*" of the Jewish people.
- **monotheistic** religion: *Explain the term "monotheistic":*

The Hebrew Bible (Tanakh):

- The Jewish Bible, or *Tanakh*, is divided into **three parts**:

(1) **Torah** ("teaching" or "law"): comprise the origins of the Israelite nation, its laws and its **covenant with the God of Israel**. It is a complex of Judaism's **founding legal and ethical religious texts**.

Torah = = Five Books of Moses (.....)

(2) the *Nevi'im* ("prophets"): **historic account** of ancient Israel and Judea + works of prophecy

(3) the *Ketuvim* ("writngs"): **poetic and philosophical works** such as the Psalms and the Book of Job.

The Talmud:

- Talmud is a central text of mainstream Judaism, in the form of a record of pertaining to Jewish law, ethics, philosophy, customs and history.
- Talmud was written for centuries and has about 3500 authors.

Jews:

According to the Bible, Jews around the world are **descended from the ancient Hebrew people of Israel who settled in the land of**, located between the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River.

- **Distinction between ethnicity** (Jew - capital "J" - member of a Jewish nation) and **religion** (Jew: member of a Jewish religion) **is foreign to Judaism itself.** The Jewish ethnicity, nationality, and religion are **strongly**, as Judaism is the traditional **faith** of the Jewish **nation**.
- According to traditional Jewish Law, a Jew is 1. anyone born of a Jewish **mother** or 2. converted to Judaism in accordance with Jewish Law.

Two major groups of the Jews:

1. **the Ashkenazim**: Jews who lived in the area of **Europe**, mostly Northern and Eastern Europe.
2. **the Sephardim**: those who lived in the area of: Iberia, North Africa and the Middle East

Jewish diaspora:

- Definition: **'Exile' that encompassed several forced expulsions of Israelites from the Promised Land.**
- The defeat of **Bar Kokhba's revolt** against the Roman Empire in 135 notably contributed to the diaspora.
- The **rejection** of life in the Diaspora is a central assumption of

Zionism and Theodor Herzl:

- Jewish political movement that has supported the
- The Zionist movement was founded in the late 19th century by secular Jews, largely as a response by Ashkenazi Jews to rising anti-Semitism in Europe, exemplified by the **Affair** (*Jewish officer, Alfred Dreyfus, condemned in 1894 for espionage in favor of German Empire. Judgment influenced by the racial prejudices. After political pressure rehabilitated in 1906*) in France and the Anti-Jewish pogroms in the Russian Empire.

- The political movement was formally established by the Austro-Hungarian journalist **Theodor Herzl** in 1897.
- The movement was successful: Israel declared independence in 14 May 1948

Six explanations as to why people hate the Jews: 1-6:

During the last 1800 years Jews have experienced more than eighty expulsions from various countries in Europe. Jews were expelled from England, France, Austria, Germany, Lithuania, Spain, Portugal, Bohemia, Moravia and seventy-one other countries.

1.: "We hate Jews because they possess too much wealth and power."
2.: "We hate Jews because they arrogantly claim that they are the chosen people."
3.: "Jews are a convenient group to single out and blame for our troubles."
4.: "We hate Jews because they killed Jesus."
5.: "We hate Jews because they are different than us." (The dislike of the unlike.)
6.: "We hate Jews because they are an inferior race."

Protestant X Catholic countries:

- Worse position in protestant countries. The attitude of the Protestants heavily influenced by **Martin** and his treatise *On the Jews and Their Lies* (1543)

On the Jews and Their Lies (1543)

- According to Luther the Jews are "full of the devil's feces ... which they wallow in like swine," and the synagogue is an "incorrigible whore and an evil slut".
- Luther proposes: (1) Jewish synagogues and schools to be burned to the ground, and the remnants buried out of sight; (2) houses owned by Jews to be likewise razed, and the owners made to live in agricultural outbuildings; (3) their religious writings to be taken away; (4) rabbis to be forbidden to preach, and to be executed if they do; (5) roads to be abolished for Jews; (6) usury to be prohibited, (7) the Jewish population to be put to work as agricultural slave labor.

Selected pogroms on the Jews before the Holocaust:

- Massive violent attacks against Jews date back at least to the **Crusades** such as the Pogrom of 1096 in France and Germany (the first "Christian" pogroms to be officially recorded).
- **Norwich in England (1144):** first accusation of ritual murder of a boy named William. William's mother accused Jews of ritual murder saying that the murder was repetition of Jesus's martyrdom.
- **Islamic Spain:** was more tolerant towards Jews. However, there were several Muslim pogroms against Jews.
- **The Black Plague in 1348:** because of the hysteria surrounding the Black Plague, Jews were massacred in several cities like Basel, Stuttgart, Dresden, Strasbourg,... By 1351, 60 major and 150 smaller Jewish communities had been destroyed.

- In 1543, Martin Luther wrote *On the Jews and Their Lies*, a treatise in which he advocated harsh persecution of the Jewish people. **Jews mostly fled to Poland and Habsburg monarchy – these were Catholic countries.** **In 18th century there were 1 million Jews living in Poland (= 20-30% of total population).**

Joseph II: (1780 – 1790: Czech and Hungarian king)



- Cancelled the duty of Jews to be marked/branded
- Same jurisdiction with the Christians
- Schools open for the Jews
- Jews were forced to accept German names and last names
- **Ghettos** still operating (until 1848)

Ghetto:

See the next worksheet “Jewish Question in the Nazi Germany”

- **Jewish ghettos in Europe** existed because Jews were viewed as foreigners due to their non-Christian beliefs in a European Christian environment. As a result, Jews were placed under strict regulations throughout many European cities.

Prague’s Ghetto and Golem:

- *Read the story. Which movie does it remind you of?:* The most famous golem narrative involves **rabbi Loew**, the late 16th century chief rabbi of Prague, who created a golem **to defend the Prague ghetto from anti-Semitic attacks and pogroms**. Depending on the version of the legend, the Jews in Prague were to be either expelled or killed under the rule of **Rudolf II, the Holy Roman Emperor**. To protect the Jewish community, the rabbi constructed the Golem out of clay from the banks of the Vltava river, and brought it to life through rituals and Hebrew incantations. As this golem grew, it became increasingly violent, killing gentiles and spreading fear.

Yiddish:

- Yiddish is a of Ashkenazi Jewish origin, spoken throughout the world
- The language originated in the Ashkenazi culture that developed from about the 10th century in the Rhineland and then spread to Central and Eastern Europe and eventually to other continents. Yiddish is written in the Hebrew alphabet.

Klezmer:

- Is a **tradition** of the Ashkenazic Jews of Eastern Europe.

A kippah or kipa or yarmulke:

- Is a , often worn by Orthodox Jewish men, to fulfill the customary requirement that **their head be covered at all times**.

Rabbi:

- Is a teacher of Torah. This title derives from the Hebrew meaning for "My Master"

Synagogue:

- Is a Jewish house of prayer.

Brit milah = circumcision:

- **Brit milah** - "covenant of circumcision" - is a Jewish religious circumcision ceremony performed on 8-day old male infants. Circumcision is **obligatory/optional** (*choose the correct one*) for Jewish-born males and for non-circumcised Jewish male converts. It is only postponed or abrogated in the case of threat to the life or health of the child.
- In the Hebrew Bible (Genesis 17:1-14) circumcision was enjoined by God to the Biblical patriarch Abraham, an act to be followed by his descendants.

Kashrut = Kosher

- Only meat from particular species is permissible. Mammals that are can be **kosher = proper, legitimate, genuine, fair, or acceptable**. *Can a Jew eat meat of a pig?*
- **Meat and dairy products:** are not served at the same meal, served or cooked in the same dishes, or stored together.
- **Dishes:** used for non-kosher food become non-kosher, and make even otherwise kosher food prepared with them non-kosher.

Shabbat (Sabbath):

- First used in the Biblical account of the seventh day of Creation
 - **Jewish Shabbat:** is a weekly day of rest, observed from until the appearance of
 - **39 activities prohibited on Shabbat:** cooking, baking, writing, building, igniting a fire,.....
- **In the event that a human life is in danger, a Jew is not only allowed, but required to violate any Shabbat law that stands in the way of saving the person.**

Famous Jews: Jesus Christ, Albert Einstein, Anne Frank, ...

- **Jesus Christ:**
- **Albert Einstein** (1879 - 1955): special and general theories of relativity, formula of the relationship between mass and energy: $E = mc^2$. Einstein was awarded the 1921 Nobel Prize for Physics.
- **Anne Frank (1929-1945):** See the next worksheet "Jewish Question in the Nazi Germany"

Some names:		
Showbiz	Science	Fashion
Leonard Bernstein (1918 - 1990): wrote musical <i>West Side Story</i> . Elizabeth Taylor, Woody Allen, Barbara Streisand, Harrison Ford, Gwyneth Paltrow, Natalie Portman, Steven Spielberg,...	Carl Sagan (†1996):: astronomer and popular science author Niels Bohr (†1962): Nobel prize-winning Physicist from 1922.	Calvin Klein: fashion brand founded in 1968 Ralph Lauren: (Ralph Lipshitz) fashion designer. Polo Ralph Lauren launched in 1967 Levi Strauss (†1902): inventor of Blue Jeans.

The Wealth:

- One of a few fields the Jews could work at was the **According to a Christian belief, manipulation with money was a sin and therefore forbidden.**

- The Jews were the only source of **loans** in a **medieval** society. The situation changed with the Reformation when the Protestants themselves began to do the business. Because of the Christian competition the credits were slowly lowered: around 1610 to 6-8%, earlier amounted to 50% - What is the name for such a interests?:
- The Jews were often expelled from the cities when the residents realized that they owe them too much money. It was always easier to expel them from the city than to pay them back.
- **The only trade** Jews were allowed to hold was **butchery**: the Jewish doctrine says that a Jew can eat meat that is prepared only by a Jew. Food that is prepared in accordance with Jewish law is **Kosher**.
- **19th century**: The **Creditanstalt** - Austrian bank - was based in Vienna, founded 1855 by the **family**. Being very successful it became the largest bank of Austria-Hungary.