

Judaism

Key Facts needed to be known about Judaism and the approximate 13 million Jews in the world.

Palestine	Originally settled by the Phoenicians
Canaan	Area of Palestine which was the Promised Land and ancient home of the Hebrews, later called the Jews
Torah	The first five books of the Hebrew Bible
Abraham	The “father” or first of the Hebrew people who led them from Ur to Canaan around 2000 B.C.E.
Monotheism	<i>Mono</i> meaning “one” and <i>theism</i> meaning “god-worship” – Yahweh the one and only God
Exodus	Led by Moses from Egypt to Canaan
Ten Commandments	God's covenant with Moses, giving him laws. The first four commandments concern the Hebrew's relationship with God. The last six commandments concern the Hebrew's relationship with one another
Israel	Kingdom formed about 1020 B.C.E. to 922 B.C.E. when the Hebrews were united under three kings: Saul, David, and Solomon
Zionism	Movement started in late 1800's that called for a Jewish home in Palestine
Purim	Festival honoring the Jews who in the fifth century B.C.E. survived persecution by Persia rulers
Kosher	Strict dietary laws based on passages in the Hebrew Bible
Western Wall	A holy site for pilgrimage and prayer, the site of the Second Temple of Jerusalem destroyed by the Romans in 70 C.E.
Star of David	Universal symbol of Judaism, refers to King David who ruled the Kingdom of Israel from about 1000 to 962 B.C.E.
Yarmulke	Our of respect for God, Jewish men are not supposed to leave their head uncovered so they wear this skullcap, also known as a kippah
Holocaust	The mass slaughter of Jews (and other civilians) carried out by the Nazi government before and during World War II
State of Israel	May 14, 1948 birth of the modern state of Israel



Star of David