

Shavuot

What Is Shavuot?

- Shavuot is a Jewish celebration.
- It takes place every year.
- It is usually in May.



Why Is It Celebrated?

Shavuot is a celebration of two things.

A Celebration of Grain Harvest

Many years ago, Jewish people would harvest their wheat and fruit. They would offer their first harvest to God in beautiful baskets.

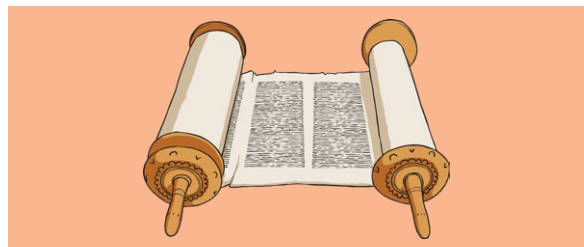
A Celebration of the Torah

Shavuot marks the day when the Torah was given to the Jewish people for the first time. The Torah is a Jewish holy text.

How Is It Celebrated by Jewish People?



by eating dairy



by reading the Torah



by eating fruit



by visiting the Western Wall

Questions

1. Who celebrates Shavuot?

- ☐ Christians
- ☐ Jews
- ☐ Hindus

2. Which month is it usually celebrated?

- ☐ January
- ☐ May
- ☐ December

3. Find and copy a phrase which means **a long time ago**.

4. What is the name of the Jewish holy book?

- ☐ Torah
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Qu'ran

5. How is it celebrated by Jewish people? Tick one.

- ☐ drinking water
- ☐ reading the Torah
- ☐ visiting church

Answers

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- ☒ **Jews**
- ☐ Hindus

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- ☒ **May**
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- ☐ drinking water
- ☒ **reading the Torah**
- ☐ visiting church

Shavuot

What Is Shavuot?

Shavuot is a Jewish celebration that happens every year. The celebration lasts for two days but in Israel it only lasts for one day. It is usually celebrated in May but the date is different every year.

Why Is It Celebrated?

Shavuot is celebrated for two reasons. Firstly, it is a celebration of the grain harvest. Many years ago, Shavuot represented the end of the grain harvest and the beginning of the fruit harvest. An important part of the celebration was the taking of the first fruits to the temple. The priest would bless the fruit when it was at the temple. Secondly, it is the celebration of the Torah. Shavuot marks the day when the Torah was shared with the Jewish people.



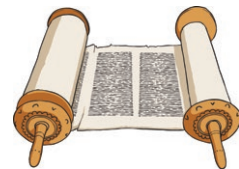
The Star of David is a Jewish symbol. It is named after King David.

How Is It Celebrated by Jewish People?

by eating dairy foods such as milk, cheese and yoghurt



by reading the Torah to try and learn it



by eating fruit like grapes, pomegranate and figs



by going on a pilgrimage to the Western Wall

Questions

1. How often is Shavuot celebrated?

- ☐ every year
- ☐ every month
- ☐ every day

2. The Star of David is named after King James. True or false?

- ☐ true
- ☐ false

3. Who would bless the fruit at the temple?

- ☐ God
- ☐ King David
- ☐ A priest

4. Find and copy one word which means journey or visit.

5. Name two types of fruit eaten at Shavuot.

1. _____

2. _____

Answers

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- ☐ King David
- ☒ **A priest**

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Pilgrimage

5. Name two types of fruit eaten at Shavuot.

Pupils to choose any two of the following: grapes, pomegranate and figs.

Shavuot



Star of David

What Is Shavuot?

Annually, the Jewish celebration of Shavuot takes place. It is celebrated for two days but in Israel the festivities only last for one day. The celebration is always seven weeks after the second day of Passover. Usually, it occurs in May but the date is different every year.

Shavuot is the second of the Three Pilgrim Festivals, celebrated by Jewish people.

Passover

Shavuot

Sukkot

Why Is It Celebrated?

Jewish people celebrate Shavuot for two reasons. Long ago, Shavuot marked the harvest of the wheat crop which was the last grain harvest of the season. It also marked the beginning of the fruit harvest. An important part of the celebration, was the taking of the bikkurim (the first fruits) of the harvest to the temple to be to blessed by the priest. This is also known as the Kohanim.



Secondly, Shavuot is the day when Jewish people believe they received the Torah for the first time. Some people believe that Moses was given the Torah on Mount Sinai on this day. It is believed that the earth shook and there was thunder and lightning.

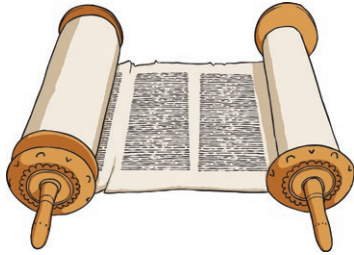
Interesting Fact

The first fruits were carried in beautifully decorated baskets.



How Is it Celebrated?

On the eve of Shavuot, it is traditional to stay up all night learning the Torah.



During Shavuot, people eat lots of dairy foods such as cheese, milk and yoghurts.

Some people even bake cakes as tall as Mount Sinai.



Jewish people also consume fruit at this time. In particular, they eat the 'Seven Species of the Land of Israel'. This is made up of wheat, barley, grape, fig, pomegranate, olive and date.



Many Jewish people go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Tens of thousands of people often visit the Western Wall during Shavuot.



What Happens in Synagogues?

The synagogue is the Jewish place of worship. It is decorated with green plants, flowers and fruits during Shavuot. This is to symbolise Mount Sinai because the mountain was covered in flowers on the day that the Torah was received.

Questions

1. How often is Shavuot celebrated?

- ☐ annually
- ☐ monthly
- ☐ weekly

2. What were the first fruits carried in?

- ☐ large buckets
- ☐ beautifully decorated baskets
- ☐ people's hands

3. Which festival is Shavuot a part of?

4. Find and copy one word which means the same as **eat**.

5. What two things did Shavuot mark long ago?

6. Why do you think that some people bake tall cakes to represent Mount Sinai?

Answers

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☐ weekly

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3. Which festival is Shavuot a part of?

Shavuot is part of the Three Pilgrim Festivals celebrated by Jewish people.

4. Find and copy one word which means the same as **eat**.
consume

5. What two things did Shavuot mark long ago?

Pupil's own responses, such as: Long ago, Shavuot marked the harvest of the wheat crop and the beginning of the fruit harvest.

6. Why do you think that some people bake tall cakes to represent Mount Sinai?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that some people bake tall cakes to represent Mount Sinai because this is the mountain where Moses received the Torah.