



Religion	Judaism
Denomination	Orthodox
Question answered:	What symbols are important to you? (KS1 Q1)
Key Concepts, questions, and outcomes:	Symbols, beliefs, God, synagogue, remembering. Why do symbols and stories play important roles in religions? Does everyone believe the same things about God? Recognise and give simple accounts of the core beliefs.
Key teaching points:	There are many symbols in Judaism. Many of them point back to the history of the Jewish people and act as a reminder of the way that they believe God has cared for them in the past.
Prior knowledge:	Pupils need to know what a symbol is and why they are used. Pupils need to know some basic facts about Judaism such as the fact that they believe in one God.

Core Vocabulary:			
<b>Ner tamid</b>	Eternal light – a light in the synagogue that burns all the time	<b>Menorah</b>	The regular seven-branched candlestick
<b>Yarmulka</b>	The small cap that many Jewish men wear. It is also called a kippah.	<b>Challah</b>	A rich, sweet loaf, usually plaited and eaten during Shabbat
<b>Tallit</b>	The prayer shawl with the tassels or knots	<b>Magen David</b>	The star of David – a modern symbol of Judaism
<b>Shabbat</b>	The weekly day of rest for Jews	<b>Mezuzah</b>	The box attached to doorposts in most Jewish homes, which contains a prayer
<b>Chanukiah</b>	The eight branched candlestick for Chanukah	<b>Torah</b>	The Jewish holy book, which is a scroll.

**Summary of answers:**

The first speaker refers first to the two symbols he is wearing – the skull cap called a yarmulke or a kippah, which is a sign that God is always looking, and but which protects the man from the sight of God and the prayer shawl or tallit, with the tassels. This symbol reminds the wearer of all the commandments in the Torah. The Torah is referred to by both speakers as being a symbol, as it is a reminder of God’s presence for Jews. The second speaker refers to the decorated cover, with crowns and bells, both symbols of the high priests from Israel’s history.

Both speakers also refer to the candles. The menorah is the seven-branched candlestick used regularly; though it is not mentioned the number seven is important in Judaism, not only because of the seven days of creation, but it is also counted as the number of God and the number of perfection. The chanukiah, the eight-branched candlestick is the one lit during the festival of Chanukah, with an extra candle lit each day, to recall the eight days that the oil lasted in the temple.

The second speaker makes a distinction between symbols at home and in the synagogue, drawing attention to the Star of David, and the eternal light or Ner Tamid, which reminds people that God is everywhere, all the time. She speaks also of the candles lit at shabbat – the first to remember the sabbath and the second to keep the sabbath. The sabbath is viewed by both speakers as symbolic. She also refers to the mezuzah on the doorposts. All the symbols are seen as being reminders to people that they are Jewish and have 613 commandments to follow.



**Next Steps:**

Find images or artefacts of the symbolic items, both from the synagogue and a Jewish home, especially those not shown in the film.

Find out about how symbols can be used to help people remember things – for example do the tassels or knots bring to mind the idea of tying a knot in a handkerchief. Explore the ways that the pupils might use to help them remember something.

Discuss all the different meanings that a symbol such as light might have.

Find out about some of the symbols on a menorah – it usually looks like a vine or other plant with leaves and branches, referring back to the design given to Moses while the Israelites were in the desert.

Make and taste challah and explore how and why Shabbat is celebrated.

Compare the answers in this video to those from the reform synagogue and discuss what is the same, as well as what is different.