

## Torah

The Torah is the first **5 books of the Bible**. They are sometimes called The Five Books of Moses. Many Jews believe that God wrote the Torah and **gave it to Moses** to give to the people.

When the Torah is read in a **synagogue** it is read from a **Torah Scroll**. Jewish people call the scroll a **Sefer Torah** (you say say-fer). Sefer is a **Hebrew** word meaning book.

If a scroll is unrolled it is **as long as a football pitch!** It is **never touched** by hand. A pointer called a **yad** is used.

Torah scrolls are very **precious** because they **contain the word of God** and also because they are very **expensive**. It can take a scribe **several years** to complete one. A Torah scroll must be written on parchment (which is a kind of leather) and must be written by hand, with a pen that is not made of any metal that could be used to make weapons.

Jewish communities are very careful with their Torah scrolls and treat them with **great respect**. They are kept in a **special cupboard called the Ark**. Each scroll is **“dressed”** in beautiful covers and has silver ornaments and bells.

Before any of the Torah is read from a scroll, the scroll is **taken in a procession** around the synagogue **so that every one can see it**. After its covers have been taken off and it has been unrolled to the right place, it is held up high so that people can see the writing in it.

Once a **scroll is too worn** out to be used, **it must be buried**. Just like a person.



## Info about Shabbat.



- A gift from God, because they get a day of rest.
- A time for families.
- No work should be done during this time.
- Special prayers are read on Shabbat.
- The Sabbath is part of the promise between God and the Jews.
- Shabbat meal: Table cloth, two candle sticks, glasses of wine and the hallah bread is covered by special cloth.
- Shabbat is a time with no television, no rushing to the demands of the telephone or a busy work schedule.
- Shabbat occurs between sunset on Friday and sunset on Saturday.
- The candles are placed in candlesticks. They mark the beginning of each Sabbath and represent the two commandments Zachor (to remember the Sabbath) and Shamor (to observe the Sabbath)
- The family drinks wine or grape juice from silver goblets and receives a blessing from the grandfather.

