

## KS1 Unit 4, Lesson 1: Simchat Torah

**Context:** In this lesson pupils will be introduced to the origins and role of the Torah in Jewish daily life and worship. They will go on to see how the obedience to the commands of the Torah is lived out in the things that happen over Shabbat.

### Overview:

- Discuss the origins and importance of 'the Law' in Judaism
- Begin to understand the importance of obedience to the Law in Jewish daily life

**Essential core:** Know that the Torah means 'teaching' is the most important part of Jewish scriptures. Know that it contains the first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible.

It teaches Jews what God is like and how they should live their lives.

Understand how special the Torah is for Jews: the Torah is read every week in the synagogue, the end of one cycle is celebrated in Simchat Torah.

Raise and suggest answers to relevant questions in response to the Jewish teachings on the Torah.

Attempt to support their answers using reasons and/or information

**Resources:** Jewish flags, apples, Two Candles Burn cd, persona doll

**Vocabulary:** - Law; Torah; Moses, Simchat Torah

### INTRODUCTION

Introduce the class to David, the Jewish boy persona doll. David lives near your school and he starts to tell the children about his family. Encourage the children to ask him questions (through you). This week David has brought Jewish flags and a small Torah scroll in his bag. He has celebrated Simchat Torah.

### CELEBRATE:

SIMCHAT TORAH (Rejoicing in Torah).

ARTEFACTS - Jewish flags (you could print off and make these) and apples for pupils.

Replica Torah scroll.

Play and then sing along to "Simchat Torah" from the "Two Candles Burn" cd ([www.twocandlesburn.com](http://www.twocandlesburn.com)). Show the class a short video of Simchat Torah being celebrated in synagogue e.g.: Simchat Torah ([video.pbs.org](http://video.pbs.org)) 2.55mins. The Torah (first 5 books of the Bible) are read right through in the synagogue in the course of a year. This festival celebrates the reading of the final portion and starting again in the morning service. The Torah scrolls are carried round the synagogue in seven circuits as the congregation - especially the children - dance behind them, waving flags and singing.

Now enact it out with the pupils singing the "Simchat Torah" song.

### PLENARY & FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT:

What is "The Torah"? Why is reading and obeying "The Torah" so important to Jewish people?

Do we have 'laws' that we must obey that tell us what is right and wrong?