

## KS1 Unit 5, Lesson 7: Bar & Bat Mitzvah

**Context:** In this lesson pupils will be introduced to the "coming of age" ceremonies of Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

**Overview:**

- Understand what happens and why at Bar and Bat Mitzvah.
- How do Jewish boys and girls prepare for this big day? What do these things say about what is important to Jewish people?

**Essential core:**

- Know that Jews have coming of age ceremonies: Bar and Bat Mitzvah (for boys and girls, respectively). These are important because it marks the time when people become responsible for following the Torah (KS2).

**Resources:** Miniature Torah scroll, yad (Torah pointer), [www.truetube.co.uk/film/bat-and-bar-mitzvah](http://www.truetube.co.uk/film/bat-and-bar-mitzvah)  
[http://www.chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/1946375/jewish/The-Aliyah.htm](http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/1946375/jewish/The-Aliyah.htm)

**Vocabulary:** Bar and Bat Mitzvah, commandment, covenant, kippah, tallit, yad, Torah scroll.

### INTRODUCTION

Today David has brought a yad (pointer). His brother Isaac had his Bar Mitzvah last Shabbat and read in Hebrew from the Torah scroll in synagogue (Aliyah) for the first time. This marks his brother "coming of age" as a Jew and being treated as an adult. What questions might the children want to ask? How do you learn Hebrew? Is it hard? Why is it so important?

### CELEBRATE:

[www.truetube.co.uk/film/bat-and-bar-mitzvah](http://www.truetube.co.uk/film/bat-and-bar-mitzvah)

Watch this video that explains Bar and Bat mitzvah.

This is a 3- minute BBC video of a boys Bar Mitzvah

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zm7tfg8>

You might also visit this Jewish website and hear the Aliyah being read in Hebrew on its interactive page.

[http://www.chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/1946375/jewish/The-Aliyah.htm](http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/1946375/jewish/The-Aliyah.htm)

Can pupils pretend to be reading from the Torah in synagogue using a yad?

Why do they need a yad?

### REFLECT:

What does it mean to "come of age"? Discuss the different ways suggested in the Truetube video.

What might be good about being treated as an adult? What responsibilities come with it? (Jewish men take their turn in reading from the Torah in synagogue. Jewish women have the responsibilities of keeping kosher at home).

### PLENARY & FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT:

What is so important about Bar and Bat Mitzvah? What has this got to do with Jewish beliefs about their covenant relationship with God and obedience to the Torah (God's law)