

Shavuot

What is Shavuot?

Shavuot is a Jewish religious festival. Shavuot means 'weeks'.

It is a two-day festival, which takes place seven weeks after the spring festival of Passover.

Facts about Shavuot

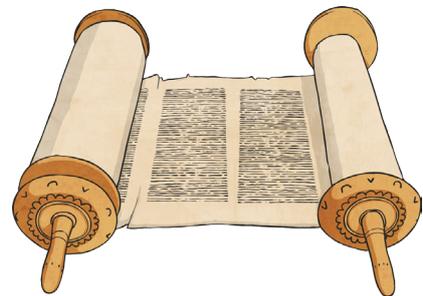
- Shavuot is a celebration of God giving the Jewish people the Torah on Mount Sinai more than 3300 years ago.
- Moses was given instructions by God on Mount Sinai. These instructions are called Torah or 'law'.
- When Moses was given the Torah, it was seen as an important spiritual event for Jews.
- Jews believe that at that time, God promised his eternal love to the people and they gave their everlasting loyalty to God.



Mount Sinai

Shavuot Rituals

- Prayers of thanks are said to God at Shavuot.
- Candles are lit.
- Jews spend the first night of Shavuot reading the Torah.
- Synagogues are decorated with flowers and plants to remember the flowers on Mount Sinai.
- The rules given to Moses, called the Ten Commandments, are read out in the synagogues.



Did You Know...?

During Shavuot, dairy products, like milk, cheese, eggs and butter, are eaten to remind Jews of when God told Moses to lead the Jewish people from slavery.

Shavuot

What Is Shavuot?

Shavuot is a Jewish religious festival. It is also known as the festival or feast of 'Weeks', as Shavuot means 'weeks'.

It is a two-day festival, which takes place seven weeks or fifty days after the spring festival of Passover.

The Importance of Shavuot

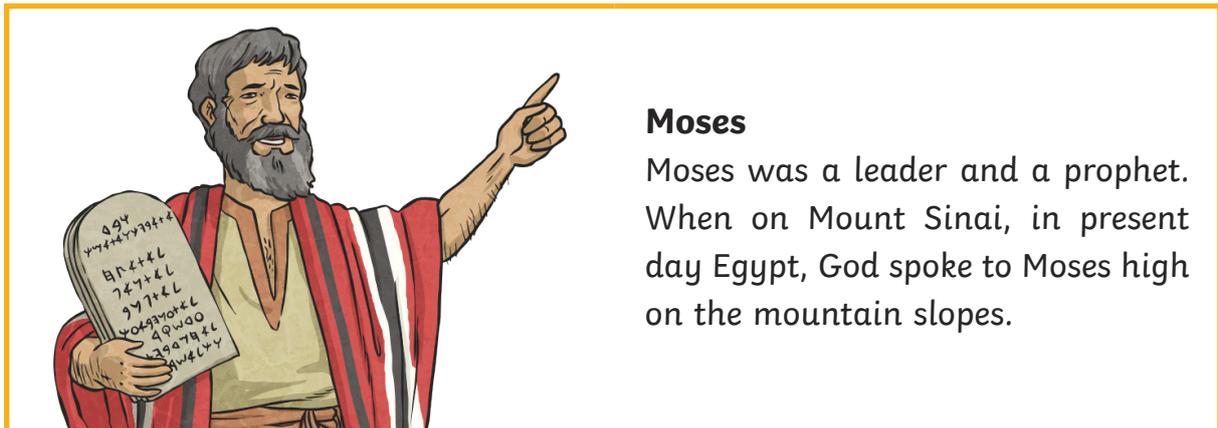
During Shavuot, Jews celebrate God giving them the Torah on Mount Sinai more than 3300 years ago.

It is written that Moses was told by God to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. During this journey, he was given the instructions by God, which all Jews should follow. This is called Torah or 'law'.



Mount Sinai

Apart from respecting this as a historical event, the giving of the Torah is recognised as an important spiritual event too. It is an event that touches the souls of Jewish people. The giving of the Torah was a time Jews believe God promised his eternal devotion to the people, and in return, they pledged their everlasting loyalty to God.

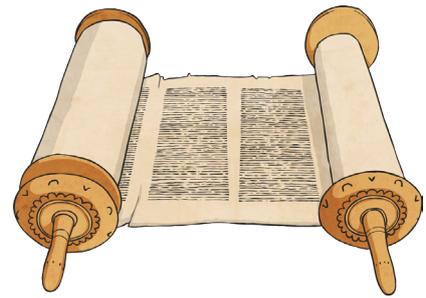


Moses

Moses was a leader and a prophet. When on Mount Sinai, in present day Egypt, God spoke to Moses high on the mountain slopes.

Shavuot Rituals

Prayers of thanks are said to God at Shavuot, for the Torah and his law. Candles are lit and many Jews spend the first night of Shavuot reading the Torah.



The synagogues are decorated with flowers and plants, to remember the flowers on Mount Sinai.

During Shavuot, while Jewish people worship in the synagogue, they listen to a reading of the Ten Commandments and chant them.



Food Traditions

During Shavuot, dairy products are eaten. There could be a number of reasons that dairy foods are eaten at this time. One reason is that Moses was told by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to freedom in a, “land flowing with milk and honey” (Exodus 3:8). As a result, Jews eat milk-based foods to symbolise this promise.

Shavuot

What Is Shavuot?

Shavuot is a Jewish harvest festival. It marks the start of the wheat harvest and the end of the barley harvest. It is also known as the festival or feast of 'Weeks'.

It is a two-day festival, which takes place seven weeks or fifty days after the spring festival of Passover.

The Importance of Shavuot

Shavuot coincides with the date that Jews celebrate God giving them the Torah on Mount Sinai more than 3300 years ago.

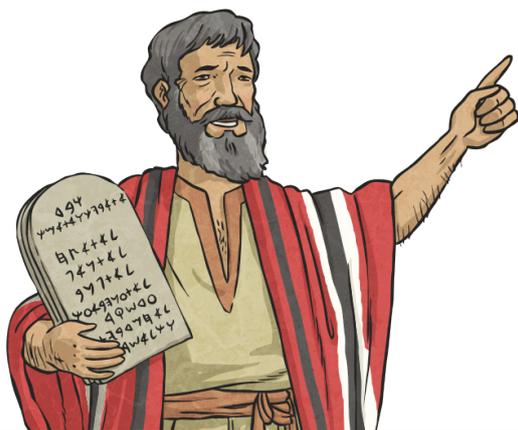
It is written that Moses led the Jews out of slavery and was given the instructions by God, by which all Jews should live by. This is called Torah or 'law'.

Apart from commemorating a historical event, the giving of the Torah is recognised as an important spiritual event too.

It is an event that touches the soul of all Jewish people for all time. When God gave the Jews the Torah, they believe He swore his eternal devotion to the people. In return, they pledged their everlasting loyalty to God.



Mount Sinai



Moses

One of Judaism's great figures is the man called Moshe Rabbenu ('Moses our teacher') in Hebrew. Moses was a leader and a prophet. When on Mount Sinai, in present day Egypt, God spoke to Moses high on the mountain slopes.

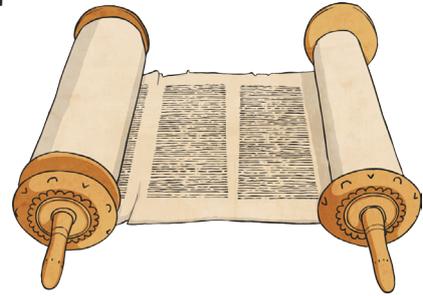
Shavuot Rituals

Prayers are said during Shavuot, thanking God for the Torah and their families. Candles are also lit.

Synagogues are decorated with flowers and spices to remember the flowers on Mount Sinai.

During Shavuot, while Jewish people worship in the synagogue, they listen to a reading of the Ten Commandments and chant them.

On the first night of Shavuot, some Jews will stay up to study Jewish scripture. This period of studying is called the tikkun.



Food Traditions

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Modern Shavuot

Over the years, people have worn white and had processions in celebration of the harvest during Shavuot.

Nowadays, Jews tend to go to their local synagogue and share a special meal with their family.