



Special Places

The Synagogue

The line drawing of Nottingham Liberal Synagogue (NLS) can be used in several ways:

- Ask the children to label the key parts
 - The Aron ha Kodesh (Ark)
 - The Ner Tamid (Eternal light)
 - The Bimah (raised area)
 - Hebrew writing
 - The 10 commandments in Hebrew
 - The Chanukiyah
 - Shulchan (reading desk)
 - Seating
- A synagogue is a place of meeting, study, and prayer. Ask the children to think about where these activities happen on the plan:
 - Meeting - talking with friends while seated, the chairs can also be moved to create space for other activities
 - Study - Shulchan, seating (because people are listening to the Rabbi), looking at the 10 commandments, reading the Hebrew over the Ark
 - Prayer - everywherePoint out that meeting and study also happens in other rooms of the building such as classrooms.
- NLS is a non-orthodox Synagogue. Ask the children to create a similarities and differences chart

Special Places in Israel: Research Task

Explain that the Jewish people see themselves as originating in what we now call the Israel-Palestine region. Many of the cities there can be found in Bible stories, and archaeology points to a long history in the region.

In 70CE the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans as punishment for a revolt by the Jewish population. Between 132-136 CE, Jews fought

another revolt against the Romans led by Shimon Bar Kochba. This revolt also failed, and Jews were banned from living in Jerusalem. After both revolts, many Jews died or were deported. Jews see this as the beginning of the *Galut* or exile.

The Holy Land remained important to Jews even though many had to leave. Small communities remained in the region until the present day. The State of Israel was established in 1948. Key prayers are said facing Jerusalem and some of the oldest prayers pray for a return to the land.

Ask the children to find out about key places in Jewish history. They could focus on one or share sites between small groups. Students should find photos and write about why this site is important.

Suggested places include:

- Ha Kotel (The Wall) - Known as the Western Wall, it is the last remaining part of the Temple complex. This is sometimes called the 'Wailing Wall' but this is not a name used by Jews.
- The Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron - prayer facilities at this site are shared between Jews and Muslims
- Masada - A fortress in the Judean Desert where rebels made a final and dramatic last stand against the Romans in 74CE
- Yad Vashem - Year 6 could investigate the Holocaust Museum based in Jerusalem. This acts as a memorial as well as a museum and is often visited by foreign dignitaries.
- The Israel Museum and Shrine of the Book - This is where the Dead Sea scrolls, the oldest existing fragments of Jewish holy texts, are held.
- Tombs of key figures - King David (Jerusalem), Rachel's Tomb (near Bethlehem), Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai (Mt Meron. He was a 2nd cen Rabbi of great significance. This tomb was in the news in 2021 after a disaster there that left many dead).

Many Jewish youngsters go on 'Israel Tour' to visit important sites in Jewish history. The above list shows the sorts of places they visit.