

Shavuot

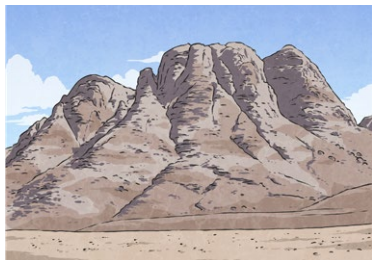
What Is Shavuot?

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

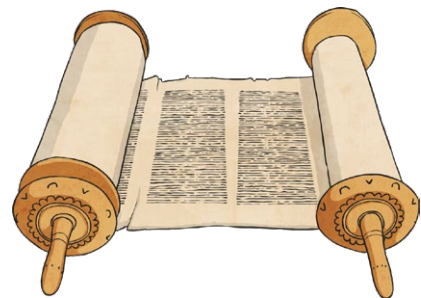
- Shavuot is a celebration of God giving the Jewish people the Torah on Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago.
- Moses was given instructions by God on Mount Sinai. These instructions are called Torah or 'law'.
- When Moses was given the Torah, it was seen as an important spiritual event for Jews.
- 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.

Questions

1. If you celebrate Shavuot, which religion do you follow?

- Christianity
- Judaism
- Islam
- Buddhism

2. Which of these facts about Shavuot are true? Tick **two**.

- It is celebrated seven weeks after Passover.
- The festival lasts for three days.
- The word Shavuot means 'weeks'.
- It celebrated in the winter.

3. God gave someone the Torah. Who was it? Tick one.

- Shavuot
- Samuel
- Moses
- David

4. Fill in the missing words.

Shavuot is a celebration of God giving the _____ people the Torah on _____ more than 3,300 years ago.

5. Find and copy one phrase which shows that God will love them forever.

6. Why are the synagogues decorated with flowers?

7. Summarise what you have learnt about Shavuot in 25 words or fewer.

Answers

1. If you celebrate Shavuot, which religion do you follow?

- Christianity
- Judaism**
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Shavuot is a celebration of God giving the **Jewish** people the Torah on **Mount Sinai** more than 3,300 years ago

5. Find and copy one phrase which shows that God will love them forever.

eternal love

6. Why are the synagogues decorated with flowers?

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

7. Summarise what you have learnt about Shavuot in 25 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Shavuot is a religious festival celebrated by Jewish people. Jews thank God for giving the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai over 3,300 years ago.

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 50 days after the spring festival of Passover.

The Importance of Shavuot

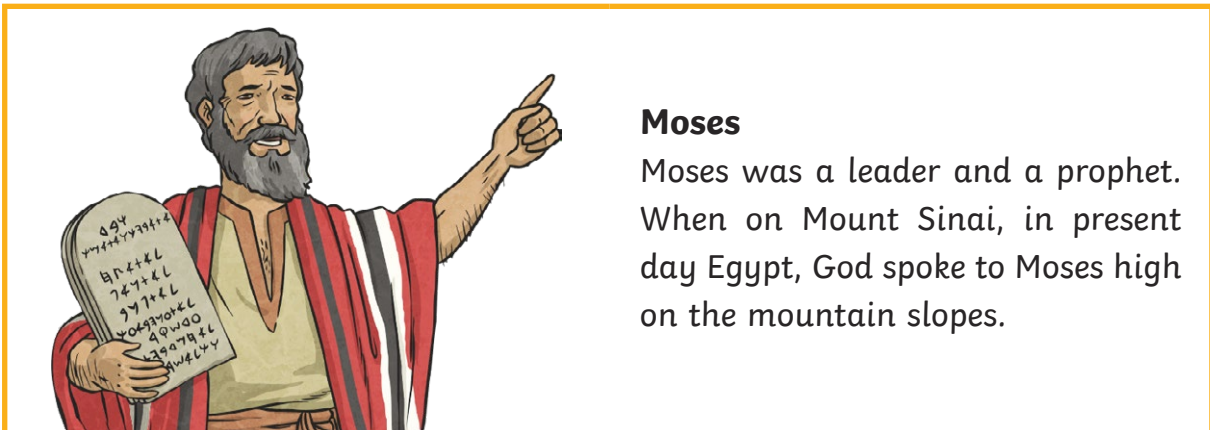
During Shavuot, Jews celebrate God giving them the Torah on Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago.

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.

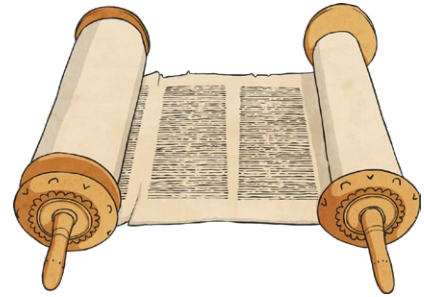


Moses

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.

Questions

1. Which of these sentences are true? Tick **two**.

- It is a Christian festival.
- It lasts for two days.
- It takes place seven weeks after Passover.
- It takes place in the summer.

2. Why were the Israelites led out of Egypt? Tick one.

- to escape slavery
- to go to Mount Sinai
- to worship in the synagogue
- to have a two-day festival

3. Shavuot is a celebration of:

- when Jews went to the synagogues
- the Passover
- when God gave the people the Torah
- seven weeks

4. Who was Moses?

5. Fill in the missing words.

Prayers of _____ are said to God at Shavuot, for the _____ and his law.

6. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'devotion'.

7. Why is this seen as a spiritual event as well as a historical one?

What might Jewish people do during Shavuot? Tick **two**.

- Go to church
- Read the Torah
- Listen to the Ten Commandments
- Eat meat

Answers

1. Which of these sentences are true? Tick **two**.

- It is a Christian festival.
- It lasts for two days.**
- It takes place seven weeks after Passover.**
- It takes place in the summer.

2. Why were the Israelites led out of Egypt? Tick one.

- to escape slavery**
- to go to Mount Sinai
- to worship in the synagogue
- to have a two-day festival

3. Shavuot is a celebration of:

- when Jews went to the synagogues
- the Passover
- when God gave the people the Torah**
- seven weeks

4. Who was Moses?

Moses was a leader and a prophet, who led the Jews out of slavery.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Prayers of **thanks** are said to God at Shavuot, for the **Torah** and his law.

6. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'devotion'.

love

7. Why is this seen as a spiritual event as well as a historical one?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Shavuot is a spiritual event as well as a historical one because it is an important part of the Jewish religion. Jews believe that God promised his eternal devotion to them and they pledged their everlasting loyalty to God.

8. What might Jewish people do during Shavuot? Tick **two**.

- Go to church
- Read the Torah**
- Listen to the Ten Commandments**
- Eat meat

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 50 days after the spring festival of Passover.

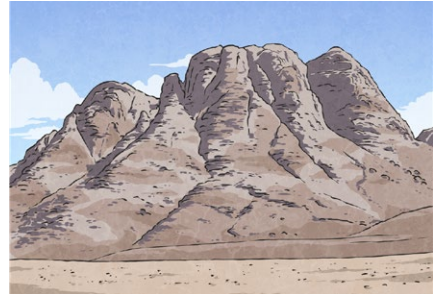
The Importance of Shavuot

Shavuot coincides with the date that Jews celebrate God giving them the Torah on Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago.

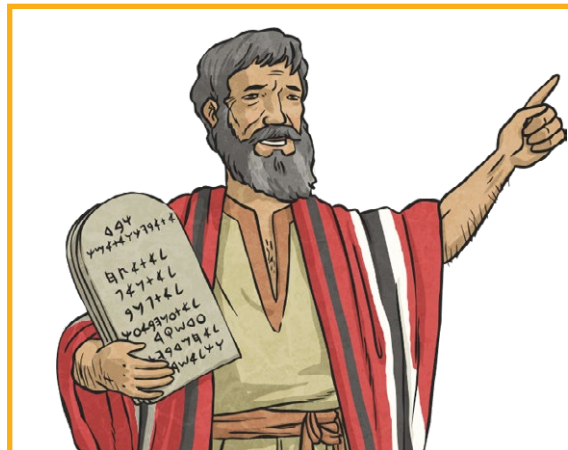
It is written that Moses led the Jews out of slavery and was given the instructions by God, by which all Jews should live by. This is called Torah or 'law'.

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.

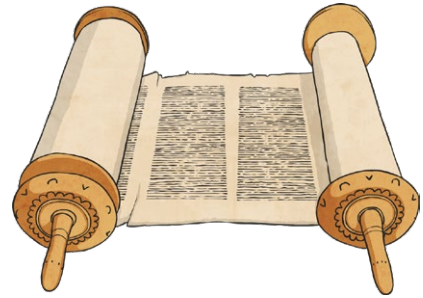
Shavuot Rituals

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

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.

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.

Questions

1. Which crops are celebrated as part of the Shavuot festivities? Tick **two**.

- barley
- harvest
- dairy
- wheat

2. When does Shavuot take place? Tick one.

- seven weeks before Passover
- less than 3,300 years ago
- seven weeks after Passover
- more than 3,300 years ago

3. What is Shavuot a celebration of?

4. Find and copy one phrase which shows that Moses is an important person in the Jewish religion.

5. Fill in the missing words.

It is written that _____ led the Jews out of slavery and was given the _____ by God.

6. Which crops are celebrated as part of the Shavuot festivities? Tick **two**.

- gift
- vow
- tradition
- offer

7. Why do you think Jewish people read the Torah during the first night of Shavuot?

8. The following sentences are a summary of some of the paragraphs.
Order the paragraphs by numbering them 1 to 5.

- It symbolises the promises made by God and the Jewish people to each other.
- Jewish people remember that meat could not be eaten on Mount Sinai.
- Initial facts about Shavuot.
- A range of things are carried out during Shavuot.
- Shavuot commemorates when Moses was given the Torah.

Answers

1. Which crops are celebrated as part of the Shavuot festivities? Tick **two**.

- barley**
- harvest
- dairy
- wheat**

2. When does Shavuot take place? Tick one.

- seven weeks before Passover
- less than 3,300 years ago
- seven weeks after Passover**
- more than 3,300 years ago

3. What is Shavuot a celebration of?

Shavuot is a celebration of the harvest and a time to celebrate when God gave the Torah to the Jewish people over 3,300 years ago.

4. Find and copy one phrase which shows that Moses is an important person in the Jewish religion.

one of Judaism's great figures.

5. Fill in the missing words.

It is written that **Moses** led the Jews out of slavery and was given the **instructions** by God.

6. Which crops are celebrated as part of the Shavuot festivities? Tick **two**.

- gift
- vow**
- tradition
- offer

7. Why do you think Jewish people read the Torah during the first night of Shavuot?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Jewish people read the Torah during the first night of Shavuot because the festival is in celebration of God giving them the Torah.

8. The following sentences are a summary of some of the paragraphs.
Order the paragraphs by numbering them 1 to 5.

- 3** It symbolises the promises made by God and the Jewish people to each other.
- 5** Jewish people remember that meat could not be eaten on Mount Sinai.
- 1** Initial facts about Shavuot.
- 4** A range of things are carried out during Shavuot.
- 2** Shavuot commemorates when Moses was given the Torah.