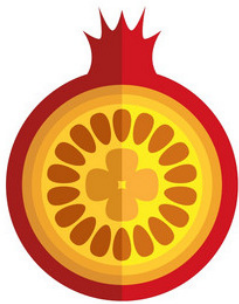


Upper KS1/Lower KS2 (SATS style)
Reading Comprehension Booklet



Rosh Hashanah and
Yom Kippur

Name.....

Useful words

symbolise

pomegranate

phrase/phrases

Rosh Hashanah



Rosh Hashanah is a part of the Jewish New Year and it is celebrated for two days. The festival usually takes place in either the month of September or October. Jewish people believe that it is a time when God judges everyone according to how they have behaved during the year that has ended. It is a time to look back at the mistakes made in the last year. New clothes are often worn at this time to symbolise a new beginning.

Questions

1 When does Rosh Hashanah take place?

Tick one.

September

September and October

October

September or October

2 Why are new clothes often worn?

During the festival, people greet each other with the phrase "Shana Tova," which means "to a good year." On the first night of Rosh Hashanah, a special evening meal is eaten. As part of this meal, everyone eats a piece of apple dipped in honey. Apples and honey are a symbol of sweetness and of hope that the coming year will be full of good things.

On the first afternoon, it is the custom to walk to a body of water (perhaps a pond), say a prayer and throw crumbs into the water. This ceremony is called Tashlich which means casting off your sins. In this way, it is possible to make a fresh, new start in the year to come.

On the second evening, a pomegranate is often eaten. The seeds represent the many good deeds people hope to carry out in the coming year.

3 What does Shana Tova mean?

4 What do people eat on the first night of Rosh Hashanah?

Tick **one**.

honey on toast

apple dipped in honey

toffee apples

apple dipped in sugar

5 Why do people eat apples and honey?

6

Why do people walk to a body of water on the first afternoon of Rosh Hashanah?

7

What do the seeds of the pomegranate represent ?

Blowing the Shofar

On Rosh Hashanah, Jewish people go to the synagogue to pray and hear the shofar being blown. The shofar is a ram's horn and it sounds a bit like a trumpet. It is very difficult to blow and takes lots of practice.

8

Why do Jewish people visit the synagogue on Rosh Hashanah?

9

What is the shofar?

Tick one.

a trumpet

a brass horn

a ram's horn

a trombone

During the morning service, the shofar is sounded 100 times. Four different phrases are played and each time the name of the phrase is called out first:

Tekia - a single note

Shevarim - three notes

Terua - a series of short notes

Tekia G'dola - a very long, single note (the player needs to take a very deep breath for this one!).

10 How many times is the shofar sounded?

Tick one.

 1000 100 10 10,000

11 Why do you think the player needs to take a very deep breath for Tekia G'dola ?

Useful words

recite

fast/fasting

Torah

synagogue

Yom Kippur

Rosh Hashanah is just the beginning of the Jewish New Year Festival. 10 days after Rosh Hashanah comes Yom Kippur, also known as The Day of Atonement. On this day, people focus all of their energy on apologising to God for their actions during the past year. On Yom Kippur, adults do not eat in order to concentrate on apologising for their past mistakes and preparing for the year ahead.

It is believed by Jewish people that if they fast on Yom Kippur, they will be forgiven for their sins by God and allowed to make a fresh start.

12 How long after Rosh Hashanah is Yom Kippur?

Tick one.

five days

seven days

ten days

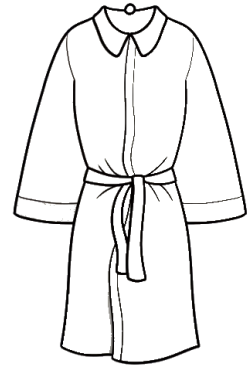
two days

13 What is Yom Kippur also known as?

14 Why do Jewish people fast on Yom Kippur?

To prepare for fasting, a festive meal is served to all family members, which is the last meal before the Yom Kippur fast.

On the eve of Yom Kippur, Jewish families gather together at the synagogue to recite verses from the Torah (the holy book of the Jewish people). Traditional clothing, such as a kittel (a long white garment) is often worn to mark Yom Kippur.



A Kittel

15

How do Jewish People prepare for fasting?

16

Where do Jewish families gather on the eve of Yom Kippur?

Yom Kippur is observed for 25 hours and begins when the sun sets in the evening. During this time, there are certain things that Jewish people do not do, such as eating, drinking or wearing leather shoes.

After Yom Kippur ends, many Jewish people have a break the fast celebration which may take place at a synagogue or at home. This is a time to eat and spend time with friends and family.

17

When does Yom Kippur start?

Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur Word Search

Find the words on the right in the puzzle below.

T V P R T S Y N A G O G U E Z S Y J
X W O O A K I T E L J B R Q F W
I L N G M S S W Y N A P L E S S
E P A X C E H H P O M I D R U J H
M D Y T O D G H L A J M R O M L Q O
X D C J O E Y R A I N U K A D V K F
G A V K L R M X A S C A H I P U Q A
D S U X E U A T I N H H T O P M T R
H I D S S Q B H B R A A N O N P H H
R N I F N W K W J L J T N R V E U A
K L H S O R H Z N Q W Z E A O A Y R
N A J U R A M S H O R N X S H Z S R

APPLES

SHOFAR

HONEY

SYNAGOGUE

KITTEL

POMEGRANATE

YOM KIPPUR

TASHLICH

RAM'S HORN

SHANA TOVA

ROSH HASHANAH

TORAH

Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur Word Search Solution

. . . P R T S Y N A G O G U E
. . . O O A K I T E L
. . . . M S S . Y . A P P L E S S
. . . . E H H H . O H
. . . . T . . G H L A . M O
. . . . O . . R A I N . K F
. R . . A S C A H I A
. A . . N H H T O P R
. H . . A A . O N P
. T N . V E U
. E A . A Y R
. R A M S H O R N . . H