

Your RE task this week is to explore some special Jewish symbols. You may already know or have heard of some of these special items. Discuss them with a family member and then complete the following activity.



The Menorah: The oldest symbol in Judaism is the Menorah. It is a seven branched candelabrum. It represents the burning bush Moses saw on Mount Sinai. Olive oil is used to light the end of each branch.



A Kippah: This is a special cap that Jewish men and Jewish boys wear on their head to show that they respect God.



A Tefillin: This is a box with ribbons. It is tied to a Jew's arm or somewhere near the head. It is worn to show that they are thinking about God and that they love God.



A Hamsa: Some Jews wear a kind of good luck charm called a hamsa. It is shaped like a hand and usually has a picture of an eye in its middle. It is worn to remind Jews of God's protective hand and his watchful eye over them. It is called a hamsa because the Hebrew word for five (meaning the five fingers on a hand) is hamesh.



The Star of David: This is the symbol recognised as the symbol of the Jewish Community and is named after King David of ancient Israel. It is the standard symbol in synagogues.



A Tallit: This is worn by Jewish men and is a tasselled shawl. It is worn to remind Jews that God is protecting them and also symbolises wrapping God's laws around them.



The Mezuzah: The Mezuzah is a scroll which Jewish people keep inside a case. It is fixed to the right side of their doorframe and when Jewish people fix it there they chant 'Blessed are you, Lord, our God, Sovereign of the Universe'. The Mezuzah is placed on doorframes to constantly remind Jews of God's presence. If Jewish people move house they have to take the Mezuzah down from the door and take it with them. Whenever a Jewish person goes through their door they touch the Mezuzah to remind themselves that God is there.

Remember – you don't need to print this table off in order to complete the task. You could find a piece of paper at home. Either draw or write the name of the symbol and then, in your own words, define/describe it.

Symbol	Definition