



Religion	Judaism
Denomination	Reform
Question answered:	What symbols are important to you? (KS1 Q1)
Key Concepts, questions, and outcomes:	Symbols, beliefs, God, synagogue, remembering. Why do symbols and stories play important roles in religions? Does everyone believe the same things about God? Recognise and give simple accounts of the core beliefs.
Key teaching points:	There are many symbols in Judaism. Many of them point back to the history of the Jewish people and act as a reminder of the way that they believe God has cared for them in the past.
Prior knowledge:	Pupils need to know what a symbol is and why they are used. Pupils need to know some basic facts about Judaism such as the fact that they believe in one God.

Core Vocabulary:			
Ner tamid	Eternal light – a light in the synagogue that burns all the time	Shofar	The rams horn blown at many Jewish festivals
Breastplate	A sliver decoration like a shield on the cover of the scrolls	Challah	A rich, sweet loaf, usually plaited
Scroll	The Hebrew scriptures in a synagogue are written on scrolls	Magen David	The star of David – a modern symbol of Judaism
Sabbath	The weekly day of rest for Jews	Chai	The Hebrew word for life
Manna	The food that was provided for the people of Israel during their time in the desert.	High Priest	The head of the Jewish religious leaders in biblical times.

Summary of answers:
The first speaker refers to many symbols – the Eternal light or Ner Tamid which reminds Jews that God promises never to leave them and that he led them in the desert with a pillar of fire. The sliver breastplate and the bells that decorate the cover of the scrolls when they are stored in the ark (cupboard) remind her of the High Priest, who wore a breastplate and bells. The sound of the Shofar, the ram's horn, that is blown at the start and the end of some festivals as well as the two loaves of bread, challah, bring to mind for her the history of the Jewish people. This links with the two candles she also mentions – one for remembering and the other for observing. The second speaker refers only to the star of David, in this case a more personal symbol.

Next Steps:
A virtual or physical tour of a synagogue would enable pupils to see many of the symbols talked about.
Read some sections of the Exodus and find references to the pillar of fire and the manna.
Watch a video of the Friday night meal with the lighting of the two candles and the two loaves of challah.
Find a recipe for challah and make some.
Listen to a recording of the sound of the shofar.
Read about the role of the High Priest and think about modern day equivalents.