



Y5 Thinking like a theologist

Judaism

Are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur important to Jewish children?

In this enquiry, children look at how Jews try to solve any problems that have arisen in the previous year. They will reflect on what they might like to solve in the recent past.

Core Knowledge

Rosh Hashanah is also known as the Head of the Year; it is celebrated on the first and second days of the seventh month, Tishri, and is the Jewish New Year festival.

Rosh Hashanah, itself, has several meanings including:

- Commemorating the anniversary of the creation otherwise known as the birthday of the universe.
- Being called the day of judgement and the day of remembrance by rabbis (Jewish teachers)

It is day of prayer, a time to ask for help in the year ahead and a time to remember the power of God whom they believe created the universe.

Yom Kippur known as the Day of Atonement, follows 10 days after Rosh Hashanah. These ten days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur are known as the High Holy Days and are days of repentance. Yom Kippur remembers the day Moses asked God to forgive the people of Israel for their sins.

On Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, God assesses a person's behaviour over the last year and this is sealed in the Book of Life.



Learning Questions

What is meant by forgiveness?

Why is Rosh Hashanah important to Jewish people?

How do the customs of Rosh Hashanah reflect their importance to Jewish Children?

How do Jews celebrate Yom Kippur and why is it important to Jewish children ?

How do I choose to say sorry and ask for forgiveness?

What are some of the rituals and traditions at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and how they are linked to Jewish beliefs?

What is meant by a new beginning and how can new beginnings be celebrated?

Vocabulary

Rosh Hashanah: Jewish New Year

Yom Kippur: The Day of Atonement

Shofar: ram's horn

Challah bread: special bread used at this time

