

Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year festival and it can last for up to two days. During this occasion, Jewish people celebrate the creation of the Earth, review everything they did during the previous year and think about what is most important to them.

Purpose

Rosh Hashanah means 'Head of the Year' in Hebrew and it usually falls around the end of September or early October. Rosh Hashanah is the first of the two Jewish High Holidays and begins the Days of Awe or Ten Days of Repentance. The days end with the second Jewish High Holiday called Yom Kippur. Other names for Rosh Hashanah are Yom Hazikaron and Yom HaDin. Yom Hazikaron means the 'Day of Remembrance' and Yom HaDin means the 'Day of Judgement'.



Did You Know...?

During Rosh Hashanah and the Days of Awe, specific prayers are read out of the special prayer book called the Machzor.

Traditions

A **shofar** is blown frequently during the Rosh Hashanah service in the **synagogue**. After the services, some Jewish people may choose to make up for their sins by helping people in need and some may choose to perform the ritual called tashlich. This is when people say prayers as they throw broken-up bread or crumbs into a moving body of water, such as a river.

Did You Know...?

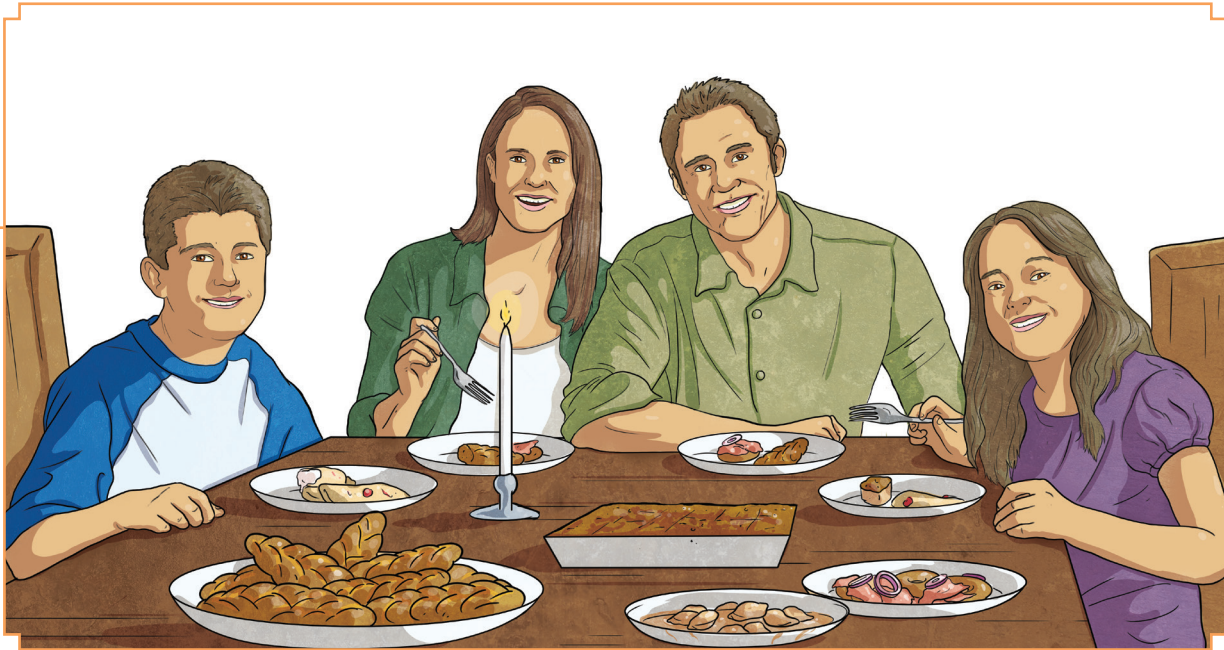
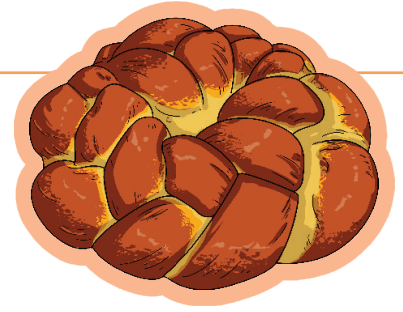
A popular greeting for Rosh Hashanah is 'Shanah tovah', which means 'for a good year'.



Meal

When it is Rosh Hashanah, it is common to serve and eat a special candlelit meal with certain traditional foods. Apples dipped in honey are often served and represent the hope of a sweet new year. The **challah** is shaped into a circle before baking to represent the constant cycle of life. A sweet carrot stew called tzimmes is also sometimes served.

Rosh Hashanah is observed across the world and is a sacred and serious time of self-reflection for many Jewish people.



Glossary

challah:

A traditional braided bread usually served during the Sabbath.

shofar:

A hollowed-out horn of a kosher animal, such as a ram or bull.

synagogue:

The Jewish place of worship where religious services are held.

Questions

1. Which title means 'Head of the Year'? Tick one.

- ☐ Yom Hazikaron
- ☐ Rosh Hashanah
- ☐ Yom Kippur
- ☐ Yom HaDin

2. What is the name of the second Jewish High Holiday? Tick one.

- ☐ Yom Hazikaron
- ☐ Rosh Hashanah
- ☐ Yom Kippur
- ☐ Yom HaDin

3. What is the name of the special prayer book used during the Days of Awe? Tick one.

- ☐ the Bible
- ☐ the Machzor
- ☐ the shofar
- ☐ the challah

4. What is tzimmes? Tick one.

- ☐ a ritual where Jewish people throw bread into moving water
- ☐ a hollowed-out horn of an animal
- ☐ a traditional braided bread
- ☐ a sweet carrot stew

5. Look at the section called **Meal**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'customary' or 'usual'.

6. Fill in the missing words.

During this occasion, Jewish people celebrate the creation of the Earth, review everything they did during the _____ year and think about what is most _____ to them.

7. What is your favourite fact that you have learnt about Rosh Hashanah?

Questions

1. Which title means 'Head of the Year'? Tick one.

- ☐ Yom Hazikaron
- ☒ **Rosh Hashanah**
- ☐ Yom Kippur
- ☐ Yom HaDin

2. What is the name of the second Jewish High Holiday? Tick one.

- ☐ Yom Hazikaron
- ☐ Rosh Hashanah
- ☒ **Yom Kippur**
- ☐ Yom HaDin

3. What is the name of the special prayer book used during the Days of Awe? Tick one.

- ☐ the Bible
- ☒ **the Machzor**
- ☐ the shofar
- ☐ the challah

4. What is tzimmes? Tick one.

- ☐ a ritual where Jewish people throw bread into moving water
- ☐ a hollowed-out horn of an animal
- ☐ a traditional braided bread
- ☒ **a sweet carrot stew**

5. Look at the section called **Meal**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'customary' or 'usual'.

Accept either of the following: common; traditional.

6. Fill in the missing words.

During this occasion, Jewish people celebrate the creation of the Earth, review everything they did during the **previous** year and think about what is most **important** to them.

7. What is your favourite fact that you have learnt about Rosh Hashanah?

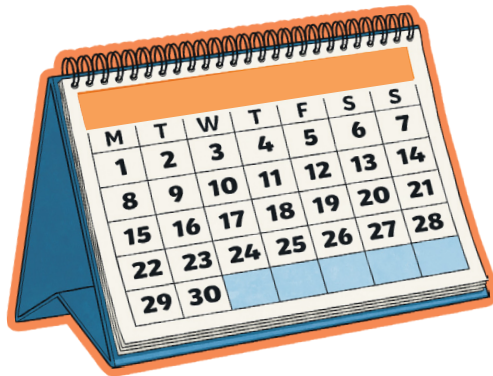
Pupils' own responses, such as: My favourite fact is that Jewish people eat sweet things such as apples with honey. I think I would like to eat them and think about a sweet new year.

Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year festival. It continues for up to two days and is when Jewish people celebrate the creation of all living things, review what they've done the previous year and think about what they should focus on in the new year.

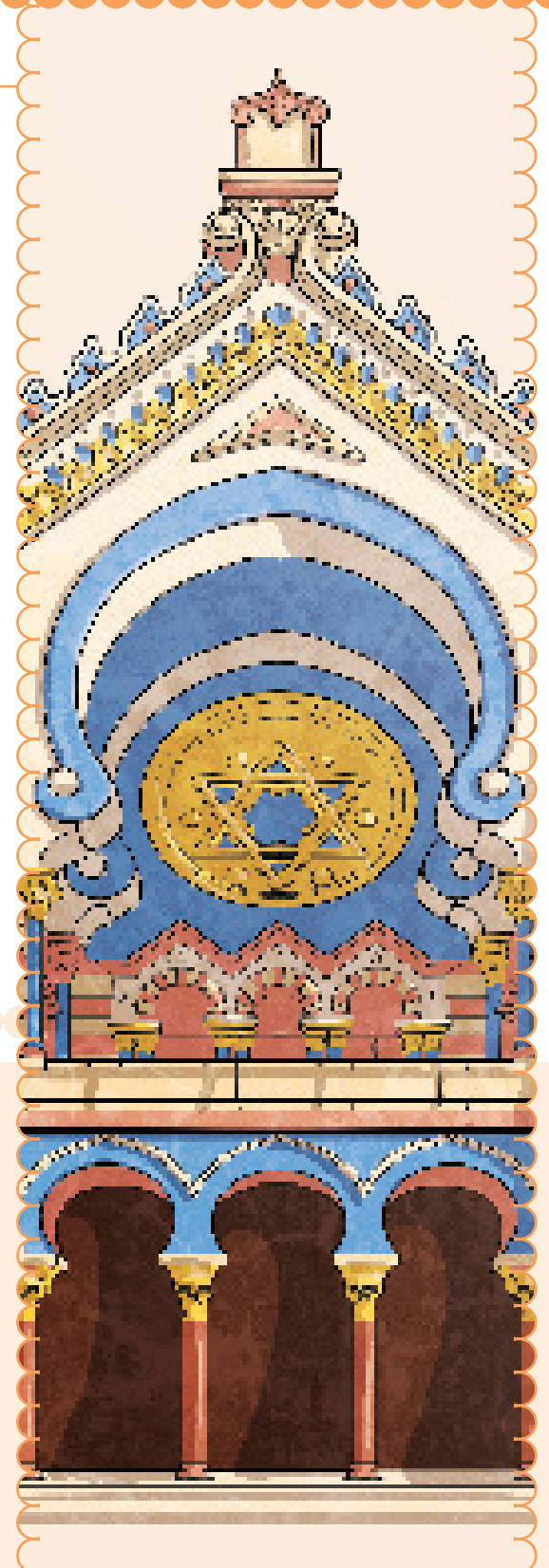
Purpose

In Hebrew, Rosh Hashanah means 'Head of the Year' and it is usually celebrated around the end of September or early October. Another name for Rosh Hashanah is Yom Hazikaron, which means the 'Day of Remembrance'. It is when Jewish people are asked to remember all of the last year's blessings. Rosh Hashanah is also called Yom HaDin. This means the 'Day of Judgement' because it is thought by many to be a time when a person's previous actions are judged.



Did You Know...?

Rosh Hashanah is the first of the two Jewish High Holidays and begins the Days of Awe or Ten Days of Repentance. At the end of the ten days, Jewish people celebrate the second High Holiday called Yom Kippur.



Traditions

In the **synagogue**, a **shofar** is blown frequently to signal many things such as the anniversary of the creation and the blessings that all have received through their faith. During the service, specific prayers are read out of the special prayer book called the Machzor. After the service, some Jewish people may choose to make up for or atone for their sins by helping people in need. Some may choose to perform the ritual called tashlich. This is when people say prayers as they throw broken-up bread or crumbs into a moving body of water, such as a river. A popular greeting for Rosh Hashanah is 'Shanah tovah', which means 'for a good year'.



Meal

During Rosh Hashanah, it is traditional to serve a special candlelit meal with foods that represent hopes for a good new year. For example, apples dipped in honey are often served to stand for the hope of a sweet new year. The **challah** is shaped into a circle before baking to represent the ever-changing cycle of life. A fish head is often placed in the centre of the dining table to represent the word-for-word meaning of Rosh Hashanah as 'Head of the Year'. It represents the idea of being 'the head not the tail', which means to be a leader and not a follower. A sweet carrot stew called tzimmes is also sometimes served.

Rosh Hashanah is a sacred and serious time of self-reflection for many Jewish people all over the world and has been since ancient times.

Glossary

challah:

A traditional braided bread usually served during the Sabbath.

shofar:

A hollowed-out horn of a kosher animal, such as a ram or bull.

synagogue:

The Jewish place of worship where religious services are held.



Questions

1. Which title means 'Day of Judgement'? Tick one.

- ☐ Yom Hazikaron
- ☐ Rosh Hashanah
- ☐ Yom Kippur
- ☐ Yom HaDin

2. What does 'Shanah tovah' mean? Tick one.

- ☐ happy new year
- ☐ head of the year
- ☐ for a good year
- ☐ remember last year

3. According to the text, what is one thing that blowing the shofar signals? Tick one.

- ☐ prayers are about to end
- ☐ the anniversary of creation
- ☐ the end of the Days of Awe
- ☐ that it is lunchtime

4. What is one food item **not** mentioned as part of the Rosh Hashanah meal? Tick one.

- ☐ sweets
- ☐ apples dipped in honey
- ☐ a challah
- ☐ a fish head

5. Look at the last sentence.

Find and copy one word that is similar in meaning to 'holy' or 'religious'.

6. Fill in the missing words.

During Rosh Hashanah, it is _____ to serve a _____
candlelit meal with foods that represent hopes for a good new year.

7. What is your favourite fact that you have learnt about Rosh Hashanah?

8. If you were celebrating Rosh Hashanah, what would you choose as your new main priorities? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Which title means 'Day of Judgement'? Tick one.

- ☐ Yom Hazikaron
- ☐ Rosh Hashanah
- ☐ Yom Kippur
- ☒ **Yom HaDin**

2. What does 'Shanah tovah' mean? Tick one.

- ☐ happy new year
- ☐ head of the year
- ☒ **for a good year**
- ☐ remember last year

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- ☐ prayers are about to end
- ☒ **the anniversary of creation**
- ☐ the end of the Days of Awe
- ☐ that it is lunchtime

4. What is one food item **not** mentioned as part of the Rosh Hashanah meal? Tick one.

- ☒ **sweets**
- ☐ apples dipped in honey
- ☐ a challah
- ☐ a fish head

5. Look at the last sentence.

Find and copy one word that is similar in meaning to 'holy' or 'religious'.

sacred

6. Fill in the missing words.

During Rosh Hashanah, it is **traditional** to serve a **special** candlelit meal with foods that represent hopes for a good new year.

7. What is your favourite fact that you have learnt about Rosh Hashanah?

Pupils' own responses, such as: My favourite fact is that a shofar is blown. I think it would be great to hear how loud it sounds at the service.

8. If you were celebrating Rosh Hashanah, what would you choose as your new main priorities? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I would choose to spend more time with my family and friends and also to practise my times tables regularly.

Rosh Hashanah

A solemn holiday for people of the Jewish faith, Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. Over two days, Jewish people celebrate the anniversary of creation, review every act or deed they've done during the previous year and think about what should be their main priorities in life.

Purpose

Meaning 'Head of the Year' in Hebrew, Rosh Hashanah begins on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month in the Hebrew calendar. This means it is usually observed around the end of September or early October. It is the first of the two Jewish High Holidays, the other being Yom Kippur. It begins the Days of Awe or Ten Days of Repentance. Another name for Rosh Hashanah is Yom Hazikaron, which means 'Day of Remembrance'. This is because during this holiday Jewish people are asked to remember all of the blessings that they have received over the last year and also to reflect on their actions. Rosh Hashanah is also thought of as the 'Day of Judgement', or Yom HaDin, because it is traditionally thought that this is the time when a person's actions are used to decide what kind of year they will have.



Traditions

In the **synagogue**, a **shofar** is blown frequently, using different types of blasts. The shofar signals many things, such as the anniversary of the creation of Earth and the blessings that all have received through their faith. During the service, special prayers are read out of the Machzor, a prayer book specifically used for the Days of Awe. After the service, some Jewish people may choose to **repent** in various ways. Some may choose to atone or make amends for their negative actions by helping people in need. Some may choose to perform the Jewish ritual called tashlich. This is when people say prayers as they toss pieces of bread or crumbs into a moving body of water, such as a river. The bread is meant to represent the sins they are washing away. A popular greeting for Rosh Hashanah is 'Shanah tovah', which means 'for a good year'.

Meal

Another important Rosh Hashanah tradition is to serve a special candlelit meal. Many of the foods served during this meal represent hopes for a good new year. Representing hope for a sweet year, a popular dish served



on Rosh Hashanah is apples dipped in honey. The **challah** is baked into a circle to represent the eternal cycle of life. A fish head is often placed in the centre of the dining table to represent the

word-for-word meaning of Rosh Hashanah as 'Head of the Year'. It represents the idea of being 'the head not the tail', which means to be a leader and not a follower. Often, a sweet carrot stew called tzimmes is served.

Rosh Hashanah is a special occasion of self-reflection and atonement for many Jewish people around the world and has been for a long time.



Glossary

challah:

A traditional braided bread usually served during the Sabbath.

repent:

To feel or express sincere regret for one's actions.

shofar:

A hollowed-out horn of a kosher animal, such as a ram or bull.

synagogue:

The Jewish place of worship where religious services are held.



Questions

1. Why is the challah baked into a circle? Tick one.

- ☐ to make it easier to share
- ☐ to represent the eternal circle of life
- ☐ so it can be worn as a crown
- ☐ to act as a centrepiece for the table

2. Which title means 'Day of Remembrance'? Tick one.

- ☐ Rosh Hashanah
- ☐ Yom Kippur
- ☐ Yom Hazikaron
- ☐ Yom HaDin

3. What is used as a table centrepiece during Rosh Hashanah?

4. Look at the last paragraph.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'to make amends' or 'make up for an act of misbehaviour'.

5. Fill in the missing words.

The shofar signals many things, such as the _____ of the creation of Earth and the blessings that have _____ through their faith.

6. If you were celebrating Rosh Hashanah, what would you choose as your new main priorities? Explain your answer.

7. Summarise what you have learnt about Rosh Hashanah in 30 words or fewer.

8. What sort of actions do you think some adults might be reflecting on during Rosh Hashanah? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Why is the challah baked into a circle? Tick one.

- ☐ to make it easier to share
- ☒ **to represent the eternal circle of life**
- ☐ so it can be worn as a crown
- ☐ to act as a centrepiece for the table

2. Which title means 'Day of Remembrance'? Tick one.

- ☐ Rosh Hashanah
- ☐ Yom Kippur
- ☒ **Yom Hazikaron**
- ☐ Yom HaDin

3. What is used as a table centrepiece during Rosh Hashanah?

A fish head is used as a table centrepiece.

4. Look at the last paragraph.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'to make amends' or 'make up for an act of misbehaviour'.

atonement

5. Fill in the missing words.

The shofar signals many things, such as the **anniversary** of the creation of Earth and the blessings that all have **received** through their faith.

6. If you were celebrating Rosh Hashanah, what would you choose as your new main priorities? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I would choose to spend more time focusing on my classwork and my family. I need to write longer stories in class and spend more time with my parents and my little sister.

7. Summarise what you have learnt about Rosh Hashanah in 30 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. People reflect on the good or bad things they have done. They also have a special service and a meal.

8. What sort of actions do you think some adults might be reflecting on during Rosh Hashanah? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think some adults might be reflecting on the amount of work they do instead of spending time with their families or taking care of themselves.