**Introduction to the Torah Judaism**

**From Abraham to Moses**

* 400 years after Abraham, Abraham’s descendants were slaves in Egypt.
* God chose Moses to lead them out of Egypt to freedom. This escape is known as the Exodus.
* In the Sinai Desert the most important event in Jewish history took place.
* God spoke to Moses and gave him the Ten Commandments written on tablets of stone.

**The Torah**

* The Torah is the centre of the Jewish religion. It is the Word of God.
* Torah means ‘law’ or ‘teaching’.
* Jewish people believe the five books of the Torah contain the words that God spoke to Moses
* The Jewish people see the Torah as a way of life.
* The Torah is written in the Hebrew Language.
* It is read from right to left.
* As a holy book, it is treated with the utmost respect.
* The Torah is always written by hand which can take up to a year.

**The making of a Torah**

* The Torah is written on skin from a kosher animal (one which Jews regard as clean, acceptable).
* The scribe also has to use a quill pen made with five feathers of a kosher bird. A chicken would be acceptable, but not an ostrich or a seagull.
* The scribe uses black ink. Mistakes are not allowed.
* [Watch the making of a Torah](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mxblj)



**Why write the Torah by hand?**

* It is a reward from God
* Gains respect from community
* It is time well spent in the service of God.

**Written Task**

1. Who did God call to lead Abraham’s descendants out of Egypt?
2. What was this escape known as?
3. What was Moses given by God that was written on tablets of stone?
4. What does the word ‘Torah’ mean?
5. How many books make up the Torah?
6. Research the Torah on Google and find out the name of the five books. Do you notice any similarities to the Bible?
7. What language is the Torah written in and how is it read?
8. What is the Torah written on? What is it written with?
9. Give two reasons why the Torah is written by hand and not printed like a book.