

small black boxes that hold passages from the Torah. The synagogue is a place for worship, but also for celebration.

Jews celebrate many festivals throughout the year. Jewish months last from one new moon until the next, which is shorter than ordinary months. Jews celebrate Purim in February or March. This holiday honors a Jewish queen named Esther. Passover comes in March or April and celebrates the escape of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Rosh Hoshanah is the Jewish New Year in September. Sukkot is a harvest festival and Yom Kippur is a time of repentance. Both of these holidays fall in September or October. Hanukkah falls in December and celebrates when the Israelites defeated a wicked king and regained the opportunity to practice their faith.

Today, there are 12 million Jews in many countries of the world, but most of them live in Israel and the United States. Jews have contributed in many areas of life. Albert Einstein was one of the greatest physicists of all time, and Sigmund Freud developed the science of psychoanalysis. Even some sayings that we commonly use come from the Bible. You might be surprised at some of these! For example, the phrase, "a drop in the bucket" comes from the book of Isaiah. Other light-hearted Yiddish (Hebrew) proverbs can make anyone smile, such as, "*To be rich is not everything, but it certainly helps!*"

What Is Judaism?

Questions

- _____ 1. Who is one of the founders of Judaism?
 - A. Akbar
 - B. Alexander the Great
 - C. Alladin
 - D. Abraham

- _____ 2. Why did Abraham destroy the idols?
 - A. He was hyperactive.
 - B. He thought they were ugly.
 - C. He believed in one God, not idols.
 - D. He dropped them by mistake.

- _____ 3. What is the name of the Jewish holy book?
 - A. the Tribune
 - B. the Torah
 - C. the Scrolls
 - D. the Koran

- _____ 4. What is the name of the place of worship for Jews?
 - A. a temple
 - B. a synagogue
 - C. a church
 - D. a mosque

- _____ 5. Which word is a synonym for a "covenant"?
 - A. covering
 - B. Tupperware
 - C. promise
 - D. test