

Shavuot

What Is Shavuot?

- Shavuot is a Jewish celebration.
- It takes place every year.
- It is usually in May.



Why Is it Celebrated?

Shavuot is celebrated for two reasons;

Reason One: A Celebration of Grain Harvest

Many years ago, Jewish people would harvest their wheat and fruit. They would offer their first harvest to God in beautiful baskets.

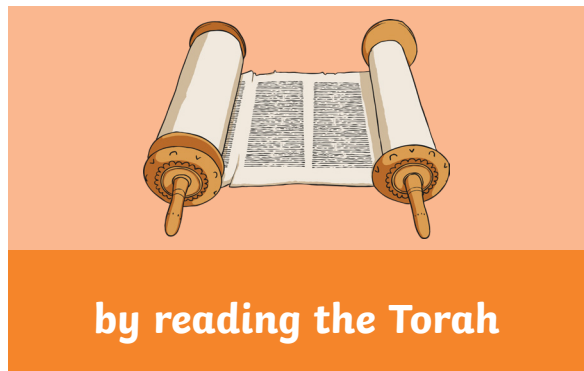
Reason Two: A Celebration of the Torah

Shavuot marks the day when the Torah was given to the Jewish people for the first time. The Torah is a Jewish holy text.

How Is it Celebrated by Jewish People?



by eating dairy



by reading the Torah



by eating fruit



by visiting the Western Wall

Shavuot

What Is Shavuot?

Shavuot is a Jewish celebration, which happens every year. The celebration lasts for two days, except for in Israel, where it only lasts for one day. It is usually celebrated in May but the date is different every year.

Why Is it Celebrated?

Shavuot is celebrated for two reasons. Firstly, it is a celebration of the grain harvest. Many years ago, Shavuot represented the end of the grain harvest and the beginning of the fruit harvest. An important part of the celebration was the taking of the first fruits to the temple. Once at the temple, the priest would bless the fruit.

Secondly, it is the celebration of the Torah. Shavuot marks the day when the Torah was shared with the Jewish people.



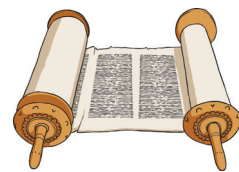
The Star of David is a Jewish symbol. It is named after King David.

How Is it Celebrated by Jewish People?

by eating dairy foods such as milk, cheese and yoghurt



by reading the Torah to try and learn it



by eating fruit, in particular grapes, pomegranate and figs



by going on a pilgrimage to the Western Wall

Shavuot



Star of David

What Is Shavuot?

Annually, the Jewish celebration of Shavuot takes place. It is celebrated for two days (although in Israel, festivities only last for one day). The celebration is always seven weeks after the second day of Passover. Usually, it occurs in May but the date is different every year.

Shavuot is the second of the Three Pilgrim Festivals, celebrated by Jewish people.

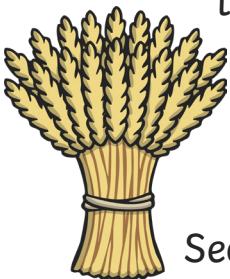
Passover

Shavuot

Sukkot

Why Is it Celebrated?

The celebration of Shavuot originates from two reasons. Firstly, long ago, Shavuot marked the harvest of the wheat crop, which was the last grain harvest of the season. Additionally, it also marked the beginning of the fruit harvest. An important part of the celebration was the taking of the bikkurim (the first fruits) of the harvest to the temple to be blessed by the priest, also known as the Kohanim.



Secondly, Shavuot is the day when Jewish people believe they received the Torah for the first time. It is said that on that day, Moses was given the Torah on Mount Sinai. It is believed that the earth shook and there was thunder and lightning.

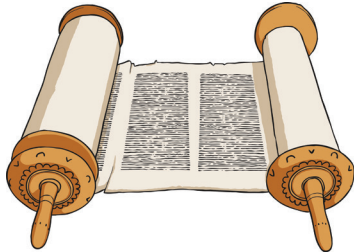
Interesting Fact

The first fruits were carried in beautifully decorated baskets.



How Is it Celebrated?

On the eve of Shavuot, it is traditional to stay up all night learning the Torah.

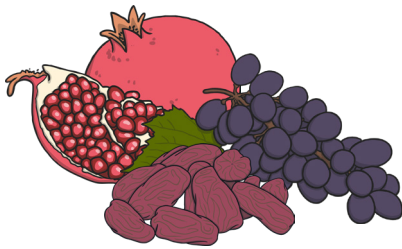


During Shavuot, people eat lots of dairy foods such as cheese, milk and yoghurts.

Some people even bake tall cakes to represent Mount Sinai.



Jewish people also consume fruit at this time. In particular, they eat the 'Seven Species of the Land of Israel'. This is made up of wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates.



Many Jewish people go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Tens of thousands of people often visit the Western Wall during Shavuot.



What Happens in Synagogues?

During Shavuot, the synagogue, which is the Jewish place of worship, is decorated with green plants, flowers and fruits. This is to symbolise Mount Sinai, as on the day the Torah was received, the mountain was covered in flowers.