

THE ISRAELITES



NGSSS

SS.6.W.2.9 Identify key figures and basic beliefs of the Israelites and determine how these beliefs compared with those of others in the geographic area.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS *How do religions develop? What are the characteristics of a leader? How does religion shape society? Why does conflict develop?*

Ruth was a poor woman who was a foreigner and a widow. She faced a difficult choice: whether to stay with her people or to join Naomi, her mother-in-law, who was an Israelite.

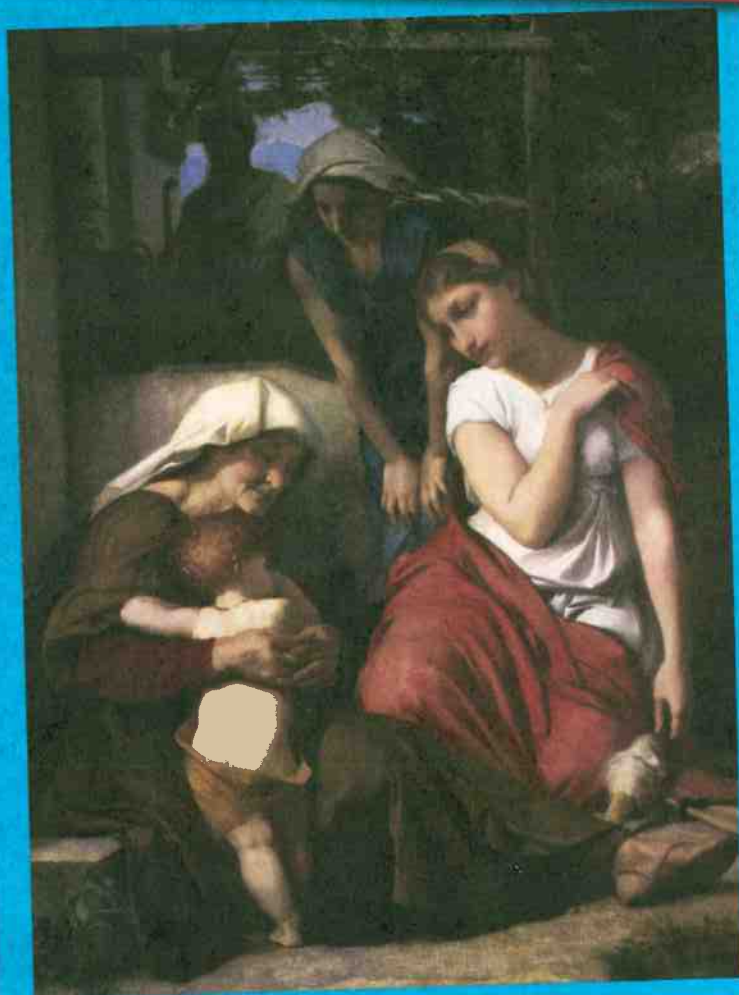
" Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. **"**

RUTH 1:16-17, THE HOLY BIBLE (NIV)

In Your Own Words

What is Ruth trying to say?

What does this image reveal about Ruth and Naomi?



DBQ BREAKING IT DOWN

Why do you think Ruth chose to join Naomi and follow the people of Israel?

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BEGINNINGS



SS.6.W.2.9 Identify key figures and basic beliefs of the Israelites and determine how these beliefs compared with those of others in the geographic area.

Essential Question

How do religions develop?

Guiding Questions

1. What did the ancient Israelites believe?
2. How did the Israelites settle Canaan?

Terms to Know**monotheism**

the belief in only one god

prophet

a messenger sent by God

tribe

a group of people who share a family member in the past

Exodus

the journey of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt

covenant

an agreement with God; the Israelites agreed to follow God's teachings if he would lead them safely to Canaan

Torah

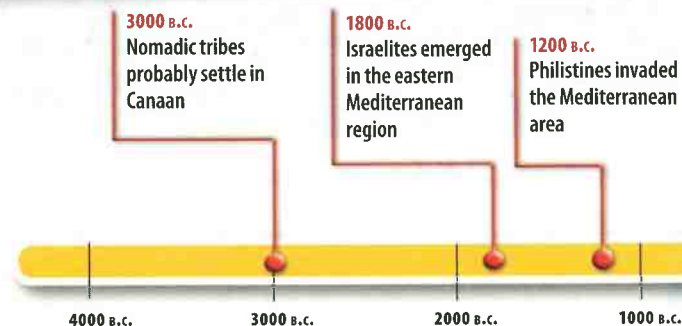
the teachings that Moses received from God on Mount Sinai; they are also a part of the Hebrew Bible

commandment

a rule that God wanted the Israelites to follow

alphabet

a group of letters that stand for the sounds made when talking

Where in the World?**The Birthplace of Judaism****When Did It Happen?**

Beginnings

Around 1800 B.C., a group called the Israelites appeared in southwest Asia. The Israelites were different from many other groups at the time. They practiced **monotheism**. This means they believed in only one god. Other groups practiced polytheism. This is the worship of more than one god. The Israelites also believed that God sent **prophets**. These prophets were messengers who shared God's words with the people.

The Israelites wrote about their religious beliefs and history. Some of these writings became the Hebrew Bible. These religious beliefs eventually became a religion called Judaism. Today, the followers of this religion are called Jews.

Jewish belief states that the Israelites descended from a man named Abraham. The Hebrew Bible says that God told Abraham to settle in Canaan. God promised that Abraham and his descendants would always control Canaan.

Abraham's grandson Jacob was later named Israel. Jacob had 12 sons. Over time his family eventually divided into separate family groups. These groups are called **tribes**. Jacob's 12 sons became the leaders of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

Famine eventually forced the Israelites to leave Canaan. Many of them moved to Egypt. However, Egypt's leader, the pharaoh, enslaved them. The Israelites had to work at hard labor. They prayed to God for freedom.

The Hebrew Bible says that a prophet named Moses led the Israelites from Egypt. One day, Moses saw a burning bush. God spoke to him from this bush. God told Moses to tell the pharaoh to let the Israelites go. The pharaoh refused and God sent ten plagues to Egypt. Plagues are events that cause great problems for many people. The plagues eventually convinced the pharaoh to let the Israelites leave.

The Torah scrolls are part of the Hebrew Bible.
The Torah is still read today.



Mark the Text

1. Underline what God promised Abraham in exchange for settling in Canaan.

Show Your Skill

2. Identify Cause and Effect

What caused the Israelites to leave Canaan, and what did they face in the place where they fled?

Show Your Skill

- 3. Main Idea and Details** List three details about the Torah.

Think Critically

- 4. Contrast** How were the Israelites different from other groups at the time?

- 5. Explain** What challenge did the Israelites face when they returned to Canaan?

Show Your Skill

- 6. Draw Conclusions** How could an alphabet have helped the Phoenicians trade?

After the Israelites left, the pharaoh changed his mind. He sent his army to catch the Israelites. The Hebrew Bible says that God parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could cross. When the Egyptians followed, they were drowned. The journey of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt is called the **Exodus**. The Jewish holy festival of Passover celebrates their freedom from slavery.

During their journey, the Israelites received a **covenant** with God. A covenant is an agreement. According to the Hebrew Bible, God promised to guide the Israelites safely back to Canaan. The Israelites promised to follow his teachings. Moses received these teachings on top of Mount Sinai. The teachings are known as the **Torah**. These laws include the Ten Commandments. The Torah later became part of the Hebrew Bible. The Ten Commandments are also a part of the Torah. A **commandment** was a rule that God wanted the Israelites to follow. One main idea of the Ten Commandments is loyalty to God. The belief in only one God became the basis for other religions. The laws of many nations are also based on principles in the Ten Commandments.

The Land of Canaan

The Hebrew Bible says that Moses died before reaching Canaan. A new leader named Joshua led the Israelites to Canaan. They found other groups already living there. Two of these groups were the Phoenicians and the Philistines. These groups had different beliefs and ways of life than the Israelites.

The Phoenicians lived in cities by the Mediterranean coast. They used their location to become skilled sailors and traders. Over time, the Phoenicians gained control of Mediterranean shipping and trade. They traded goods and founded settlements around the Mediterranean world. These settlements helped spread Phoenician ideas. They developed an **alphabet** to help them trade. An alphabet is a group of letters that stands for sounds made when talking. Their alphabet influenced the Greek and Roman alphabets. We still use the Roman alphabet today.

The other group was the Philistines. They had come from near present-day Greece. They built walled towns by the Mediterranean coast in southern Canaan. The Philistines made tools and weapons, and they built a strong army.

The Israelites wanted to establish Canaan as their new homeland. However, these two groups made that difficult. The Israelites believed that God wanted them to claim this land. According to the Hebrew Bible, Joshua led them into battle to achieve this goal. At the city of Jericho, the Israelites marched around the city walls for six days. On the seventh day, the walls fell. The Israelites took control of Jericho.

Groups Living in Canaan

Phoenicians

- sailors and traders
- settlements throughout Mediterranean world
- created an alphabet

Philistines

- settled in southern Canaan
- built walled cities along Mediterranean coast
- made tools and weapons; built a strong army

Joshua continued to lead the Israelites into other battles. Then, they divided the lands they captured between the 12 tribes. When Joshua died, leaders called judges ruled the tribes. The judges settled disputes and led troops into battle. A woman judge named Deborah became known for her bravery. She helped advise troops in battle. These troops defeated another army seeking control of Canaan.

After many battles, the Israelites won control of central Canaan. The Hebrew Bible states that they worshiped God in a tabernacle. This is a large tent-like building that could be taken along as they moved from place to place. The tabernacle housed the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark was a wooden chest. The Israelites believed the Ten Commandments were written on tablets kept in the Ark. They carried the Ark into battle with them. They believed it would ensure a victory, or make certain they won.



This replica shows what the Ark of the Covenant may have looked like.

Mark the Text

7. Underline in the text what part of Canaan the Israelites reclaimed.

Think Critically

8. Explain Who was Deborah?

Take the Challenge

9. Make a storyboard to show the sequence of events of the Israelites taking control of Canaan.

NGSSS Check Explain why Canaan was important to the Israelites. **SS.6.W.2.9**

LESSON

2

THE ISRAELITE KINGDOM



NGSSS

SS.6.W.2.9 Identify key figures and basic beliefs of the Israelites and determine how these beliefs compared with those of others in the geographic area.

Essential Question

What are the characteristics of a leader?

Guiding Questions

1. What was the role of kings in Israelite history?
2. How did neighboring empires respond to the Israelites?

Terms to Know**psalm**

sacred song or poem

proverb

a familiar saying that shares lessons for living

exile

forced absence from one's home or country

Where in the World?**The Israelite Kingdom and Assyrian Empire****When Did It Happen?**

1200 B.C.

Philistines invaded the Mediterranean area

1100 B.C.

Israelites settle much of Canaan

970 B.C.

Solomon becomes Israelite king

922 B.C.

Solomon dies

722 B.C.

Assyrians invade Israel

1200 B.C.

1000 B.C.

800 B.C.

600 B.C.

Early Kings

The Israelites had settled much of Canaan by 1100 B.C. However, they feared the powerful Philistines. The Israelites called for a king to unite them against this enemy. They asked the judge Samuel to choose a king. He warned that a king might tax or enslave them. Still, the Israelites demanded a king. Samuel chose Saul to become the first Israelite king.

Saul helped the Israelites win many battles against the Philistines. However, according to the Hebrew Bible, he disobeyed some of God's commands. God told Samuel to choose a new king. Samuel then chose a young shepherd named David to be king.

David was already known for his bravery. The Hebrew Bible tells the story of his victory over the giant Philistine warrior, Goliath. Goliath dared any Israelite to battle one-on-one. David accepted the challenge. He used a shepherd's staff, a slingshot, and five stones to kill Goliath. Saul put David in charge of his army. David won victories, and he became even more well-known. Saul then became jealous and tried to kill David, but David escaped. Saul later died in battle and David became king.

As king, David united the Twelve Tribes. The Israelite army finally defeated the Philistines, and David set up a capital city at Jerusalem. It is believed that David wrote many of the sacred songs, or **psalms**, in the Hebrew and Christian Bibles. Today, David is considered the greatest Israelite king.



David is shown here using his slingshot to defeat Goliath. When David was older, he became king of Israel and established a capital at Jerusalem.

Mark the Text

1. Underline the names of the three Israelite kings described in this section.

Show Your Skill

2. **Make a Connection** What characteristics do leaders in your school or community in Florida share with David?

Think Critically

3. **Analyze** Why is David considered a great Israelite king?

Think Critically

4. Evaluate How did Solomon eventually lose the support of the Israelites?

5. Infer Why was the time period following Solomon's death difficult for the Israelites?

Mark the Text



6. Underline the two kingdoms that formed from the division between Israelite tribes.

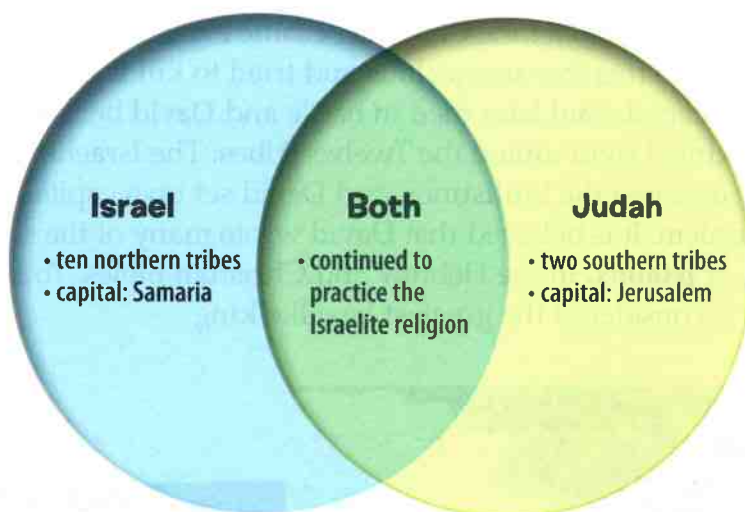
Take the Challenge

7. The Assyrians have hired you to make an advertisement for them. They want the ad to remind the people they have **conquered** to pay tribute.

After David died, his son Solomon became king. Solomon made peace with many nearby groups. He also built cities and Jerusalem's first temple. Solomon was known as a wise leader. His **proverbs** are found in the Hebrew Bible. Proverbs are familiar sayings that share lessons for living. Solomon did many good things as king. However, the Israelites eventually turned against him. They did not like working on his many building projects or paying his high taxes. Solomon died about 922 B.C. After that time, the Israelites entered a difficult period. Their kingdom became divided and powerful neighbors threatened them.

Two Kingdoms

The ten northern tribes rebelled against Jerusalem after Solomon died. These tribes started a new kingdom called Israel. Samaria was its capital. The two southern tribes formed Judah. The capital of this smaller kingdom was Jerusalem.



During this time, large empires grew around Israel and Judah. The Assyrians and Chaldeans became powerful. They wanted to control the trade routes that ran through the Israelite kingdoms.

The Assyrians spread fear across the region. They forced the people they conquered to pay tribute. This meant that people had to give the Assyrians money or enslaved people. If they did not receive a tribute, the Assyrians would destroy buildings or entire towns. The kingdom of Israel refused to pay tribute to the Assyrians. As a result, the Assyrians invaded Israel in 722 B.C. They captured Samaria and other major cities. They brought people into Israel from other parts of the Assyrian Empire. These new settlers mixed with the Israelites. This produced a new culture, whose people were called Samaritans.



The Israelite prophets' teachings were very important to the Jewish faith. This painting shows a prophet under the hand of God.

The Samaritans accepted many Israelite religious beliefs. They also adopted religious practices that the Israelites did not accept. Eventually, the two groups had little in common. Present-day Judaism grew from the religious practices of the tribes of Judah.

Later, the Chaldeans conquered Jerusalem and began making major changes. At first, the Chaldeans chose a Judean king to rule Judah. This king planned to set Judah free. He did not listen to those people who warned against a revolt. After a long conflict, the Chaldeans retook the city. They then destroyed much of it, including the temple. The Chaldeans took the king and thousands of other people to live in Babylon. This time became known as the Babylonian Exile.

During this difficult time, prophets played an important role in Jewish life. They provided encouragement and guidance for the Israelites. Their goal of making the world a better place influenced many people who came after them.

Show Your Skill

8. Draw Conclusions Why might the Chaldeans have decided to send so many Israelites to live in Babylon?

Think Critically

9. Summarize Why did the Assyrians and Chaldeans want to take over the Israelite kingdoms?



NGSSS Check Were David and Solomon successful kings? Explain. **SS.6.W.2.9**

THE DEVELOPMENT OF JUDAISM



NGSSS

SS.6.W.2.9 Identify key figures and basic beliefs of the Israelites and determine how these beliefs compared with those of others in the geographic area.

Essential Question

How does religion shape society?

Guiding Questions

1. How did the people of Judah practice their religion while in exile and in their homeland?
2. How did religion shape the Jewish way of life?

Terms to Know

synagogue

a Jewish house of worship

Sabbath

in Judaism, a day of rest and worship that lasts from sundown on Friday to nightfall on Saturday each week

scroll

a long document made up of pieces of rough paper called parchment; the pieces are sewn together to make scrolls

kosher

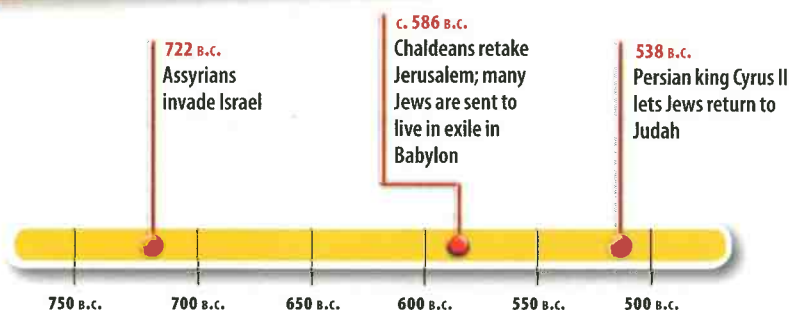
describes food that has been made following Jewish dietary laws

Where in the World?

Babylon, Judah, and Israel



When Did It Happen?



Return to Judah

The Judaeans' time in Babylon was called an exile. This is a period of time when people are forced to live away from their homes. During this time, they became known as the Jews. Their religion also became known as Judaism.

The Jews did not have a large temple in Babylon. Instead, they gathered in smaller houses of worship. These were called **synagogues**. The Jews came together on the **Sabbath**. This is a weekly day of rest and worship. According to tradition, it lasts from sundown Friday to nightfall Saturday. A tradition is a custom or way of life that has been handed down from generation to generation. Jews still observe the Sabbath today.

Many Jews in Babylon hoped to go back to Judah. Eventually, a group called the Persians defeated the Chaldeans. In 538 B.C., the Persian king Cyrus II allowed Jews to return to Judah. Many Jews returned to Judah. They began to rebuild Jerusalem. They built the Second Temple. This replaced the temple that was destroyed by the Chaldeans.

The Jews could not have their own government or king under Persian rule. They looked to religious leaders to guide their society. These leaders included priests and scribes. Priests were religious scholars that taught the Jewish faith. The scribes wrote down the books of the Torah on rough pieces of paper called parchment. They sewed these pieces together to make **scrolls**. These writings make up the Hebrew Bible.

The Hebrew Bible has three main parts. These parts are the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings. The Hebrew Bible contains 24 books. It presents the laws and rules of the Israelites. It also tells about Jewish history, art, literature, poetry, and proverbs. The first book of the Hebrew Bible is Genesis. It gives the Israelite view of how humans began. Genesis also explains how God punished the world for wicked behavior. This is told through the story of Noah's ark. This book also describes why the world has many languages.

When a Jewish boy reaches the age of 13, it is Jewish tradition for him to read the Torah at his Bar Mitzvah.

Mark the Text

1. Circle the parts of the text that describe the books of the Hebrew Bible on this page and the next page.

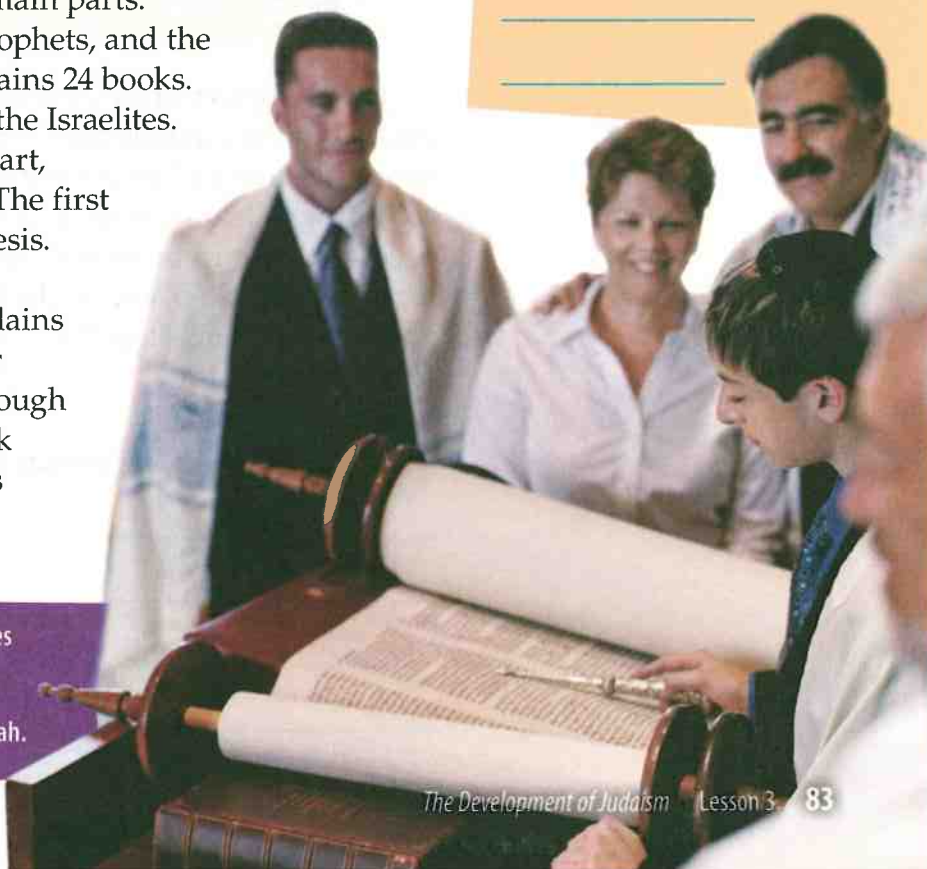
Show Your Skill

2. Identify Cause and Effect

How did exile affect the way the Jews practiced their religion?

Think Critically

3. **Explain** Why did priests and scribes become leaders when the Jews returned from exile?



Show Your Skill

- 4. Identify the Main Idea** What traits did the Torah encourage the Jews to show in their daily lives?

- 5. Draw Conclusions** Why do you think Ruth became a model for Jewish girls?

Take the Challenge

- 6.** Create a menu for a kosher restaurant. Include choices for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Do additional research if needed.

The book of Isaiah details God's plan for a peaceful world. The book of Daniel says that the Jews believed that goodness would eventually replace evil and suffering. Daniel was a king's advisor who refused to worship Babylonian gods. The Chaldeans threw him in a lion's den. However, God protected Daniel. This story reminds Jews that God will also rescue them from evil. Christians and Muslims also share this hope for a better world.

Jewish Daily Life

The teachings of the Torah shaped daily life for the early Jews. These teachings affected family life, food, and clothing. The Torah required Jews to help others and treat them fairly. It also encouraged self-control and loyalty to God.

The Torah described roles for Jewish fathers and mothers. Jewish families valued education. Sons learned a trade and how to read the Torah. Daughters learned to be wives, mothers, and housekeepers. They studied Jewish laws about food and clothing. They also learned about women of ancient Israel, such as Ruth and Naomi.

- Ruth was Naomi's daughter-in-law.
- Naomi's husband and two sons died.
- One of the sons was married to Ruth, who was not a Jew.
- Ruth made a difficult decision.
- To help Naomi, she left her homeland to go to Bethlehem.
- Ruth's courage and devotion became a model for Jewish girls.

Jewish dietary laws tell what Jews can eat. Ancient Jews could only eat animals that were considered clean. These included cattle and sheep, but not swine (pigs). Food prepared according to Jewish dietary laws is called **kosher**. Animals used in kosher meat must be killed in a certain way. This meat is inspected, salted, and soaked in water. Jews cannot eat meat and dairy products together. They also cannot eat crab, shrimp, or other shellfish.



NGSSS Check List four features of Judaism. **SS.6.W.2.9**

LESSON

4

THE JEWS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN WORLD



NGSSS

SS.6.W.2.9 Identify key figures and basic beliefs of the Israelites and determine how these beliefs compared with those of others in the geographic area.

Essential Question

Why does conflict develop?

Guiding Questions

1. What was life like for the Jews in Greek-ruled lands?
2. How did the Jews react to Roman rule of their homeland?

Terms to Know

Diaspora

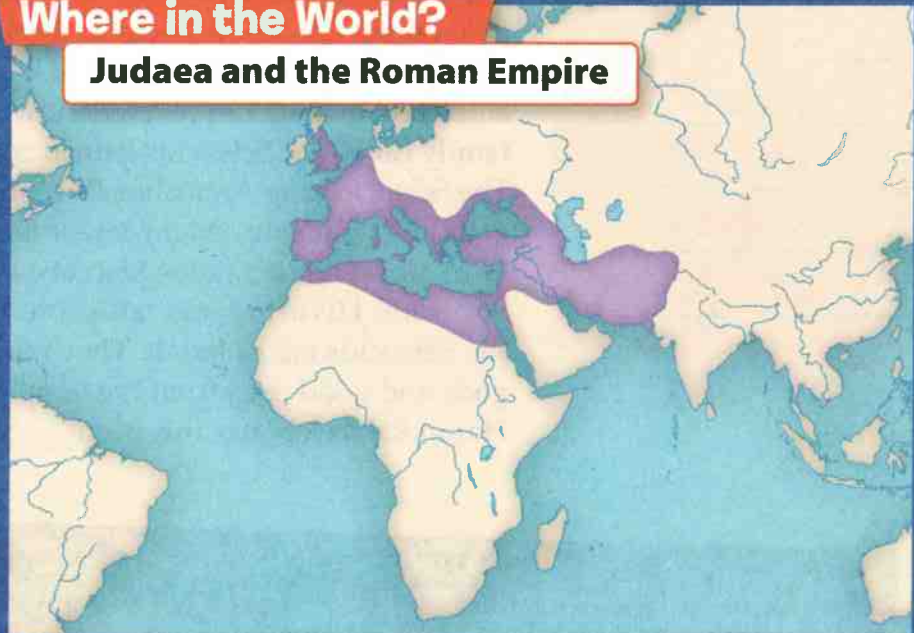
the groups of Jewish people living outside of the Jewish homeland

rabbi

Jewish religious leaders who explained the Torah and offered moral guidance

Where in the World?

Judaea and the Roman Empire



When Did It Happen?

538 B.C.

Persian king Cyrus II allows Jews to return to Judah

331 B.C.

Alexander the Great defeats the Persians

200 B.C.

Judah is under control of Seleucid kings

167 B.C.

Judas Maccabeus leads fight against Seleucid rule

63 B.C.

Romans conquer Judah, rename it Judaea

A.D. 66

Zealots revolt against Roman rule

A.D. 132

Simon Bar Kochba leads another revolt against Romans

600 B.C.

500 B.C.

400 B.C.

300 B.C.

200 B.C.

100 B.C.

0

A.D. 100

A.D. 200

Mark the Text

1. Underline the result of the Maccabees' revolt.

Think Critically

2. **Summarize** How did Jewish ideas spread throughout the Mediterranean world?

3. **Explain** What does the annual festival of Hanukkah celebrate?

networks™ Read Chapter 6 Lesson 4 in your textbook or online.

The Arrival of Greek Rule

In 331 B.C., Alexander the Great defeated the Persians. Alexander brought Greek language and culture to Judah. He also allowed Jews to stay in Judah.

Judah remained the center of Judaism. Many Jews, however, moved to other parts of Alexander's empire. Some lived in Babylon, Egypt, and other Mediterranean lands. Jews living outside of Judah became known as the **Diaspora**. *Diaspora* is a Greek word that means "scattered." The members of the Diaspora remained loyal to Judaism. They also spoke Greek and adopted parts of Greek culture.

Some Jewish scholars in Egypt copied the Hebrew Bible into Greek. This Greek version of the Hebrew Bible is called the Septuagint. A version is a different form or type of something. This Greek version brought the Hebrew Bible to people who were not Jews. It helped spread Jewish ideas throughout the Mediterranean world.

When Alexander died, four of his generals divided his empire. One kingdom covered most of Southwest Asia. A family called the Seleucids gained control of Judah by 200 B.C. The Seleucid king Antiochus IV required Jews to worship Greek gods and goddesses. Many Jews refused to give up their religion.

A priest named Judas Maccabeus fought against the Seleucids. His army was called the Maccabees. They drove the Seleucids out of Judah. They removed all statues of Greek gods and goddesses from the temple. The annual festival of Hanukkah celebrates this event.

These boys celebrate the annual Jewish tradition of Hanukkah by lighting menorahs.



Roman Rule in Judaea

In 63 B.C., Roman forces conquered Judah and named it Judaea. The name *Roman* came from their capital, Rome. This city was located far away from Judaea in what is now Italy. At first, the Romans chose a follower of Judaism as king of Judaea. This ruler, Herod, built forts and cities. The Second Temple in Jerusalem was also rebuilt during his reign. This temple was the center of Jewish worship.

When Herod died, Roman officials ruled Judaea. Jews began to disagree about how to practice Judaism. They also disagreed about how to interact with the Romans.

One group was called the Pharisees. They had the support of the common people. The Pharisees taught in synagogues. They also applied the Torah's teachings to daily life. The Pharisees worked to make Judaism a religion of the home and family. They focused on both written and oral law.

The Sadducees included wealthy noble families. Many served as priests and scribes in the Temple. They focused on applying the Torah's laws to temple ceremonies. They opposed many of the Pharisees' teachings. For example, they rejected the Pharisees' focus on oral law.

A third group was called Essenes. These priests had broken away from the Temple in Jerusalem. They lived in the desert by the Dead Sea. They prayed and waited for God to deliver them from Roman rule. They also followed only the written law of the Torah. The Essenes may have written the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The Zealots lived in Judaea. They believed that the Jews should fight the Romans for their freedom. In the A.D. 60s, many Jews were waiting for a deliverer. A deliverer is a person sent by God to rescue people from trouble. Anger at Roman rule reached its peak during this time. The Zealots got ready for battle.

Mark the Text

4. Underline the accomplishments of the first king of Judaea.

Show Your Skill

5. **Make Inferences** Why is the Talmud a valuable record of Jewish law?

Take the Challenge

6. Write a newspaper article from the point of view of someone living in Judaea under Roman rule.

Jewish Groups Respond to Roman Rule

Group	Response
Pharisees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">wanted Judaea free from Roman ruleurged resistance through greater devotion to the Torah
Sadducees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">avored cooperation with Romanswanted to keep peace and order in Judaea
Essenes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">prayed for God to deliver them from Roman rule
Zealots	<ul style="list-style-type: none">prepared to fight the Romans for their freedom

The Western Wall is an extremely sacred place for Jews, and as these Jews illustrate, serves as a common place of prayer.



Show Your Skill

7. Identify Cause and Effect

What was the outcome of the second Jewish revolt against Roman rule in A.D. 132?

Think Critically

8. **Infer** How did rabbis help to unify the Jews?

In A.D. 66, the Zealots revolted. They drove the Romans from Jerusalem. However, the Romans reclaimed Jerusalem four years later. They killed many Jews and forced many others to leave. The Romans also destroyed the Second Temple. Today, the Western Wall is all that remains of the Temple complex.

In A.D. 132, the Jews again revolted. The Romans also defeated this rebellion. The Jews were no longer allowed to live in or visit Jerusalem. The Romans renamed Judaea and called it Palestine.

The Jews regrouped with help from religious leaders called **rabbis**. The rabbis became important because the Jews no longer had temples or priests. One famous rabbi was named Yohanan ben Zaccai. When the Romans captured Jerusalem in A.D. 70, he persuaded them to spare the city of Yavneh. There, he set up a school to keep teaching the Torah. His efforts helped the Jewish religion survive the destruction of the temple and loss of Jerusalem. The rabbis eventually put their teachings about Jewish laws in writing. These writings are called the Talmud. The Talmud discusses issues faced in daily life. It remains an important record of Jewish teachings.



NGSSS Check For each cause, identify one effect. **SS.6.W.2.9**

Cause

Effect

Alexander the Great conquered Judah.

1.

The Seleucids took control of Judah.

2.

The Zealots rebelled against Roman rule.

3.

MY REFLECTIONS

Reflect on What It Means . . .

Throughout history, religious beliefs have shaped societies. Using what you learned in this chapter, reflect on the ways that the religious beliefs of the Ancient Israelites shaped their society.

With a small group, work to create a mini-television program or podcast on the history of the Ancient Israelites discussed in this chapter.

Then prepare a special segment on the relationship between the religion of the Israelites and their society. Use the space below and on the next page to jot down your ideas.

Our Ideas

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue lines, resembling notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Keep Going! ➡➡

Artifacts We Could Show**Scenes to Re-enact****TAKE THE CHALLENGE**

Write a short story about the history of Judaism. Use illustrations in your short story. When you have completed it, exchange short stories with a partner. Have the class vote on the short story that does the best job of portraying the story of Judaism.