Aim: What are the major beliefs of Judaism? How does Judaism impact the lives of Jewish people?

HW: p. 49.
**Objective:**

What are the major beliefs of Judaism? How does Judaism impact the lives of Jewish people?

- **Describe** the major beliefs of Judaism.
- **Explain** how Judaism impacts the lives of Jewish people.

**Introduction**

**Directions:** Examine the images below, then fill out the chart with what you see, think, and wonder.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>See</th>
<th>Think</th>
<th>Wonder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use three things you see in the images above.</td>
<td>Based on your observations, what do you think the objects in the images above have in common?</td>
<td>Write two questions you have about the picture above.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Torah**
- **2 people**
- **Star of David**
- **Yamulkes**
- **Books**
- **Papers**

They all connect to Judaism.

- How long does it take to learn Hebrew?
- What are the books?
- What are they writing?
- Who are the two people?
Directions: As you read about the following beliefs of Judaism, answer the questions that accompany each section and fill out this graphic organizer.

1. Monotheism

Most civilizations in the Middle East at the time of the Ancient Israel practiced polytheistic religions. Judaism was the first monotheistic religion that continued to exist and impact world history.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Poly</th>
<th>theism</th>
<th>Mono</th>
<th>theism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prefix and Root</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>“many”</td>
<td>“having to do with god”</td>
<td>“one”</td>
<td>“having to do with god”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples</td>
<td>Animism is a belief system in which people worship many different natural spirits. For example, some Animistic religions might worship a god of the sun, a volcano, or of the forest.</td>
<td>Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all worship the same singular god who the Jewish people call “Yahweh,” Christians call “God,” and Muslims refer to as “Allah.”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The Covenant

A covenant is an agreement. Jewish people believe that God made covenants with several figures mentioned in the Torah. The covenants below are between God and the father of Judaism, Abraham.

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country [Egypt], and from thy kindred [relatives], and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew [show] thee:  
And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:  
And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.[…]

In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates[…]  
And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.


1. Based on this section of the Torah, God promised Abraham…

- Leave Egypt → I’ll protect your people.
- You will have a great nation.
- You and your family will be blessed.
- Land from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates River.

UNIT 2 | The First Civilizations | SQ 24: What are the major beliefs of Judaism? How does Judaism impact the lives of Jewish people?
3. The Ten Commandments

Most belief systems have ethical/moral codes of conduct that describe how one should live their life based on the beliefs of that religion. For Judaism, the Ten Commandments, that appear in the Torah, are the highest code of conduct. According to the Torah, God inscribed the commandments on two stone tablets and gave them to Moses to share with the rest of the Israelites.

The Ten Commandments

And God spake all these words, saying,
1. I am the LORD thy God[
2. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven [engraved] image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
3. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them[
4. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain[
5. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy[...] in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates[...]
6. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
7. Thou shalt not kill.
8. Thou shalt not commit adultery [cheat on one's husband or wife].
9. Thou shalt not steal.
10. Thou shalt not bear false witness [lie] against thy neighbour.
11. Thou shalt not covet [want] thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass [donkey], nor any thing that is thy neighbour's[...]


2. Identify one piece of evidence from the Ten Commandments that suggests that Judaism is a monotheistic religion.

Commandment #2 + 1

3. Based on the Ten Commandments, describe a person who lives their life according to God's laws.

- Can't kill
- Don't misuse the Lord's name
- Don't steal
- Loyal to spouse
- Don't lie
- Respect your parents
- Pray and go to temple

UNIT 2 | The First Civilizations | SQ 24: What are the major beliefs of Judaism? How does Judaism impact the lives of Jewish people?
4. Major Figures of Judaism

**Abraham**

- **Father** of Judaism
- Life story is told in the book of Genesis in the Hebrew Bible
- God made a covenant with Abraham promising to bless him with descendants “like the sands of the sea” and a nation for him and the Israelites

![Depiction of Abraham circa 1180 by Herrad von Landsberg](Image courtesy of Wikimedia and is in the public domain)

**Moses**

- Life story told in the Torah
- Freed the Israelite slaves from Egypt
- God gave Moses the Ten Commandments
- Many Jewish people believe he wrote the Torah

![Moses with the Tablets of the Law. Rembrandt, 1695.](Image courtesy of Wikimedia and is in the public domain)
Impact: How did Judaism impact the lives of Ancient Israelites?

That Babylonian Exile (Captority)

Directions: Watch this History Channel video clip, Exile of the Jews and read the excerpt below, then answer the questions that follow.

Starting around 597 BCE, the Babylonian Empire, centered in the city of Babylon in the Fertile Crescent, conquered the Kingdom of Judah. The upper class Jewish people, Israelites who lived in Judah, were ordered by the Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar II, to leave Jerusalem and live in captivity in Babylon.

The period of time from 597 to 539 BCE, which ended when the Persian king Cyrus the Great took over Babylon and allowed the Jews to return to Judah, is known as the Babylonian Exile or Captivity.

This period had a great effect on the Jewish people. They wondered how such a terrible thing could happen to god’s “chosen people.” In addition, their sacred temple where they worshiped their god was destroyed.

As a result, some of the Jewish people in Babylon became more religious. They commemorated the fall of Jerusalem with days of prayer and celebrated the Sabbath (day of rest set aside for religious reasons). The profession of the scribes, people who copied religious documents, grew in importance. Historical writings and religious teachers were compiled and revised by the scribes to create the Torah. The writers viewed the recent events as punishment for their sins, especially the sin of worshipping gods other than Yahweh. At the same time, the scribes and others in exile hoped that the Jewish faith would bring the Israelites together and that they would be able to rebuild the Temple once the exile was over.

The Babylonian exile represents both one of Judaism’s darkest hours and also the beginning of its history as an enduring universal religion that gave birth to the later monotheistic traditions of Christianity and Islam.

Based on the video and reading above identify two pieces of evidence that show that Judaism unified the Jewish people.

1. The Torah
2. Protective of their identity

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Directions: Based on what you have learned, complete the task below.

Part I
Describe the major beliefs of Judaism. Explain how Judaism impacts the lives of Jewish people.