



Judaism is the original of the three Abrahamic faiths, which also includes **Christianity** and **Islam**. There are 12 million Jewish people in the world, and most of them are in the USA and Israel. According to the 2001 census 267,000 people in the UK said that their religious identity was Jewish, about 0.5% of the population.

- Judaism originated in the Middle East over 3500 years ago
- Judaism was founded by **Moses**, although Jews trace their history back to **Abraham**.
- Jews believe that there is only one God with whom they have a **covenant**.
- In exchange for all the good that God has done for the Jewish people, Jewish people keep God's laws and try to bring holiness into every aspect of their lives.
- Judaism has a rich history of religious text, but the central and most important religious document is the **Torah**.
- Jewish traditional or oral law, the interpretation of the laws of the Torah, is called *halakhah*.
- Spiritual leaders are called Rabbis.
- Jews **worship** in **Synagogues**.
- 6 million Jews were murdered in the **Holocaust** in an attempt to wipe out Judaism.

There are many people who identify themselves as Jewish without necessarily believing in, or observing any Jewish law.