

Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. It takes place in September or October each year.

What Is Yom Kippur?

Jewish people look back on the past year during Yom Kippur. They ask for forgiveness from God for any bad behaviour. Jewish people believe that they will be forgiven by God on Yom Kippur if they have tried hard to be good throughout the year.

When Is Yom Kippur?

Yom Kippur comes nine days after the Jewish holy day of Rosh Hashanah. It lasts for around 25 hours and begins just before sunset and ends a little after nightfall the next day.

What Happens During Yom Kippur?

Yom Kippur is a time for thinking seriously about the past year and most Jewish people do not go to work on this day. Jewish people who are over nine years old **fast** from sunset to sundown. They believe that this helps them to purify their minds and spirits.

Did You Know...?

The Jewish faith uses a different calendar called the **Hebrew** calendar. This means that Yom Kippur falls on a different date in September or October each year.

People who are ill or elderly do not have to fast.

Jewish people follow strict rules to show God that they are truly sorry for any bad behaviour over the last year. Many are also not allowed to wear leather shoes, wash themselves or wear perfumes or lotions on Yom Kippur.



Some Jewish people wear white clothing on Yom Kippur because they believe that it represents purity. Married people often wear a special white robe called a kittel.

Many Jewish families spend most of the day praying and **meditating** in the **synagogue** on Yom Kippur. One long blast is blown on the **shofar** at the end of the day. This lets everyone know that it is the end of the Yom Kippur and that their sins have been forgiven by God.

Glossary

fast: To stop eating and drinking, often for religious reasons.

Hebrew: Relating to the ancient ancestors of the Jewish people.

meditating: Thinking deeply and focusing your mind, in silence.

shofar: A ram's horn trumpet.

synagogue: The Jewish place of worship.

Questions

1. Yom Kippur can fall in which months of the year? Tick **two**.

- August
- September
- November
- October

2. **Jewish people ask God for _____ during Yom Kippur.**

Tick one.

- forgiveness
- money
- food
- happiness

3. Draw **four** lines and match each word with its correct definition.

| | |
|------------|--|
| meditating | a ram's horn trumpet |
| fast | to stop eating and drinking, often for religious reasons |
| synagogue | thinking deeply and focusing your mind, in silence |
| shofar | the Jewish place of worship |

4. Which word from the text means 'a list of days or events'?

- hours
- September
- Hebrew
- calendar

5. What do married people often wear on Yom Kippur?

6. Fill in the missing words.

Jewish people follow _____ rules to show _____ that they are truly sorry for any bad behaviour over the last year.

7. Why do you think that ill people do not need to fast during Yom Kippur?

Answers

1. Yom Kippur can fall in which months of the year? Tick **two**.

- August
- September**
- November
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4. Which word from the text means 'a list of days or events'?

- hours
- September
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5. What do married people often wear on Yom Kippur?

Married people often wear a special white robe called a kittel.

6. Fill in the missing words.

Jewish people follow **strict** rules to show **God** that they are truly sorry for any bad behaviour over the last year.

7. Why do you think that ill people do not need to fast during Yom Kippur?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that ill people do not need to fast because they may need food and drink to give them energy to recover. Not eating or drinking may make them feel worse.

Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. It takes place nine days after the Jewish holy day of Rosh Hashanah and falls in September or October each year.

What Is Yom Kippur?

Yom Kippur is also known as the Day of **Atonement**. Jewish people look back on the past year and ask for forgiveness from God for any bad behaviour. If the person has tried hard to be good throughout the year, Jewish people believe that they will be forgiven by God on Yom Kippur.

When Is Yom Kippur?

Yom Kippur comes at the end of the Ten Days of Repentance that follow Rosh Hashanah. Yom Kippur lasts for around 25 hours and begins just before sunset and ends a little after nightfall the next day.



What Happens During Yom Kippur?

Yom Kippur is a time for thinking seriously about the past year and most Jewish people do not go to work on this day. Jewish people who are over nine years old fast from sunset to sundown as this is believed to help purify the body and spirit.

Did You Know...?

The Hebrew calendar is based on the phases of the Sun and the Moon. This means that Yom Kippur falls on a different date in September or October each year.

Ill people and the elderly are not expected to fast.

Jewish people follow strict rules to show God that they are truly sorry for any wrongdoings in the last year. Many are also not allowed to wear leather shoes, bathe or wear perfumes or lotions on Yom Kippur. Jewish people might choose to give money to charity on the days before Yom Kippur. Married Jewish people may wear a special white robe called a kittel.

Some Jewish people wear white clothing because they believe that it represents purity.

During Yom Kippur, many Jewish families spend most of the day praying and **meditating** in the **synagogue** where there are prayer services. At the end of the day, the **shofar** is sounded for one long blast to let everyone know that it is the end of the festival and that their sins have been forgiven by God.

Glossary

atonement: Making amends for something bad that you did.

fast: To refrain from eating and drinking, often for religious reasons.

Hebrew: Relating to the ancient ancestors of the Jewish people.

meditating: Thinking deeply and focusing your mind, in silence.

shofar: A ram's horn trumpet.

synagogue: The Jewish place of worship.

Questions

1. Which religion celebrates Yom Kippur? Tick one.

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Hinduism

2. Draw **four** lines to complete each sentence.

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Married Jewish people may wear... | money to charity. |
| Many Jewish people choose to give | a special white robe called a kittel. |
| The Hebrew calendar is based on... | the phases of the Sun and the Moon. |
| Jewish people who are over nine years old... | fast from sunset to sundown. |

3. What do Jewish people believe that the colour white represents? Tick one.

- honesty
- kindness
- purity
- bravery

4. Which of these is **not** allowed during Yom Kippur? Tick one.

- praying
- fasting
- eating
- talking

5. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'washing your body in water'.

6. Fill in the missing words.

Yom Kippur comes at the end of the _____ Days of Repentance
that follow _____ Hashanah.

7. **...most Jewish people do not go to work on this day.**

Why do you think this is?

8. Discuss how a Jewish person may feel about fasting for Yom Kippur.

Answers

1. Which religion celebrates Yom Kippur? Tick one.

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism**
- Hinduism

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- honesty
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- praying
- fasting
- eating**
- talking

5. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'washing your body in water'.

bathe

6. Fill in the missing words.

Yom Kippur comes at the end of the **Ten** Days of Repentance that follow **Rosh** Hashanah.

7. **...most Jewish people do not go to work on this day.**

Why do you think this is?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that they don't go to work because they want to spend the time praying and meditating at the synagogue.

8. Discuss how a Jewish person may feel about fasting for Yom Kippur.

Pupils' own responses, such as: When fasting for Yom Kippur, a Jewish person may feel a little worried that they will be hungry or thirsty but also grateful to be asking for forgiveness from God.

Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur is considered to be the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. It takes place nine days after the Jewish holy day of Rosh Hashanah and falls in September or October each year.

What Is Yom Kippur?

Yom Kippur is also known as the Day of **Atonement**. Jewish people look back on the past year and ask for forgiveness from God for any wrongdoings. If the individual has tried hard to be a good person throughout the year, Jewish people believe that they will be forgiven by God on Yom Kippur.

What Happens During Yom Kippur?

Yom Kippur is a time for reflection and most Jewish people do not attend work on this day. Jewish people over nine years old **fast** from sunset to sundown as this is believed to help purify the body and spirit. Children aged between 9 and 12 eat less than usual during the fast. Elderly people and those who are ill are not expected to fast during Yom Kippur.

Many Jewish families share a meal before Yom Kippur known as a 'separation meal' to prepare them for the day ahead. This meal often includes kreplach, which are triangular pasta dumplings filled with meat, potato or cheese.



When Is Yom Kippur?

Yom Kippur marks the end of the Ten Days of Repentance (also known as the Ten Days of Awe). Yom Kippur lasts for around 25 hours and begins just before sunset and ends a little after nightfall the following day.

In the **Hebrew** calendar, which is based on the phases of the Sun and the Moon, Yom Kippur is celebrated on the 10th to 11th day of the month of Tishrei. In the **Gregorian** calendar, Yom Kippur is celebrated in September or October.

Jewish people follow strict rules to show God that they are truly sorry for any wrongdoing in the last year. Many Jewish people are also not allowed to wear leather shoes, bathe or wear perfumes or lotions on Yom Kippur. They might choose to donate money to charity on the days before Yom Kippur.



Married Jewish people may wear a special white robe called a kittel on Yom Kippur. Some Jewish people wear white clothing as a symbol of purity.

During Yom Kippur, many Jewish families spend most of the day praying and meditating in the **synagogue** where there are various prayer services. At the end of the day, the shofar (ram's horn) is sounded for one long blast to let everyone know that it is the end of the festival and that their sins have been forgiven by God.

Glossary

atonement: Making amends for something bad that you did.

fast: To refrain from eating and drinking, often for religious reasons.

Gregorian calendar: The solar calendar that is widely used throughout the world.

Hebrew: Relating to the ancient ancestors of the Jewish people.

synagogue: The Jewish place of worship.

Questions

1. What time of day does Yom Kippur end? Tick one.

- midnight
 sunrise
 midday
 sunset

2. Draw **four** lines and match each section to its main content.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Glossary | provides a summary of Yom Kippur |
| What Happens During Yom Kippur? | explains how long Yom Kippur lasts for and the months that it occurs |
| What Is Yom Kippur? | explains any technical vocabulary that is used in the text |
| When Is Yom Kippur? | gives information about the ways that Jewish people observe Yom Kippur |

3. What are krepalach?

4. Who does not need to fast during Yom Kippur? Give **two** answers.

• _____

• _____

5. Find and copy one word that shows that there are different prayer services during Yom Kippur.

6. Why do you think that the meal that Jewish families share before Yom Kippur is known as a 'separation meal'?

7. Jewish people look back on the past year and ask for forgiveness from God for any wrongdoings. **What does the word 'wrongdoings' mean?**

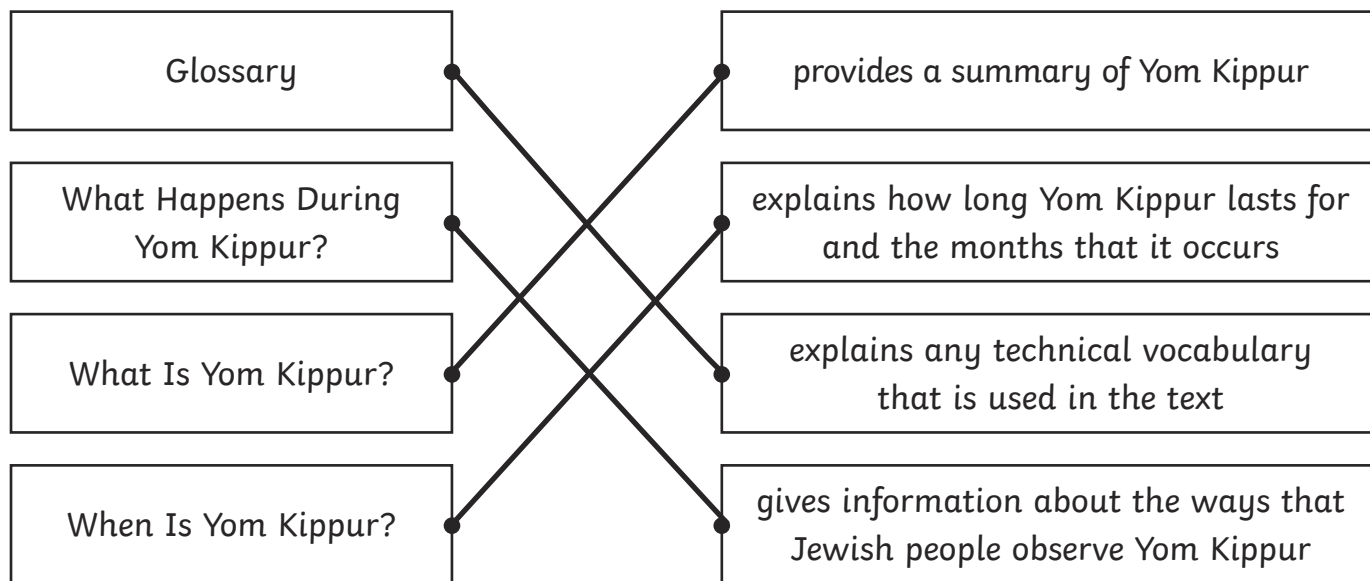
8. Look at the section of the text called **What Happens During Yom Kippur?** Explain which of the activities you would find the most difficult to stop doing for a day. Give reasons for your answer.

Questions

1. What time of day does Yom Kippur end? Tick one.

- midnight
 sunrise
 midday
 sunset

2. Draw **four** lines and match each section to its main content.



3. What are kreplach?

Kreplach are triangular pasta dumplings filled with meat, potato or cheese.

4. Who does not need to fast during Yom Kippur? Give **two** answers.

Accept: Elderly people and ill people.

5. Find and copy one word that shows that there are different prayer services during Yom Kippur.

various

6. Why do you think that the meal that Jewish families share before Yom Kippur is known as a 'separation meal'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the meal is called a 'separation meal' because it is the last meal that they will eat before their fast. Fasting is a time when Jewish people separate themselves from food and drink.

7. Jewish people look back on the past year and ask for forgiveness from God for any wrongdoings.

What does the word 'wrongdoings' mean?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'wrongdoings' means doing wrong and relates to bad or dishonest behaviour.

8. Look at the section of the text called **What Happens During Yom Kippur?**

Explain which of the activities you would find the most difficult to stop doing for a day.

Give reasons for your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would find it difficult to stop eating because I think I would get quite hungry after a few hours and not be able to concentrate very well.