

Name: _____

Judaism Week #1

A one page essay addressing the following questions is due this upcoming Monday, September 30. You may use the sources below to answer this week's questions, but please do not venture outside of these provided sources. And ALWAYS cite your sources—when in doubt as to whether or not to cite something, always cite it. If you have questions about citations, please ask one of your teachers or Mr. Cody; they will be happy to help you.

- <https://uri.org/kids/world-religions/jewish-beliefs>
 - United Religions Initiative is an organization that attempts to unite people of all religions together for peace. This should be the *only* webpage you use from URI for the purposes of your paper. It is a concise and helpful list of things integral to the Jewish faith.
- <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/introduction-to-judaism/>
 - This website is a great source for more basic knowledge on Judaism. [myjewishlearning.com](https://www.myjewishlearning.com) is the only source of these three to be actively promoting belief in the Jewish religion. Feel free to use the many links provided at the bottom of this page that correspond to different topics and ideas in Judaism. Make sure to use this source at least once in your paper.
- <https://www.history.com/topics/religion/judaism>
 - [history.com](https://www.history.com) has provided another informative and fairly unbiased source for learning about Judaism. Stick to this webpage from history.com—do not explore the whole website for the purposes of this paper.

The History of Judaism

This week we will be learning about the history of Judaism. Your research this week should be aimed at understanding the diverse history of Judaism while taking into account the basic beliefs you're also learning about. Focusing on the sources given, contr. Our goal will be to have a working knowledge of the history of Judaism.

1. When did Judaism begin? How did it get to where it is today?
2. How did Judaism spread? Where has it spread?
3. Does it seem like people of the Jewish faith have always held the same basic beliefs? What different sects of the religion are there today?

The Basics of Judaism

This week we will be learning about the basic beliefs of Judaism. Your research this week should be aimed at understanding, rather than critiquing or validating the religion at hand. Taking into account statements of belief, historical sources, and perhaps personal discussions with people of the Jewish faith, formulate fair and thoughtful answers to the following questions in a one-page essay. Our goal will be to have a working knowledge of the basic beliefs of Judaism.

4. Does Judaism have a primary text, like the Bible or Quran? Describe it.
5. What does Judaism say about who God is and who humankind is?

6. What beliefs make this religion different/intriguing from others? What does Judaism share in common with Christianity?