Introduction/History of Judaism
1) Viewing “Judaism: My Life, My Religion”
2) Introduction to Judaism: Jewish Identity
3) The Shema and Discussion
Video: Judaism. My Life, My Religion

Before and during the short introductory film, create a chart similar to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What I Know About Judaism</th>
<th>What I Now Know About Judaism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson: The History of Judaism
The Meaning of “Israel” (Copy in Notes)

1. A country in the Middle East established as a Jewish homeland after the Holocaust in 1948. Someone that is a citizen of Israel is “Israeli.”

2. Israel describes the Hebrew people or nation with whom God made a covenant with in history. This is documented in the Old Testament in the Bible.

To be Jewish means:

1. To be Jewish refers to ethnicity and culture (Secular)
2. To be Jewish refers to those who practice Judaism (Religious)

*One might consider themselves to be Jewish, but not practice Judaism.*
What is a JEW?
The Shema

“Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Take to heart these instructions with which a charge you this day. Impress them upon your children. Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them serve as a symbol on your forehead; inscribe them on the doorposts of your house. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

See note on the Shema here
The Shema in Everyday Life...

Tefillin

Mezuzah
The History of Judaism:

See the detailed note “Timeline of Jewish History”
Abraham and Sarah (copy in notes)

- Considered the first Patriarch of Judaism.
- (Lived in a polytheistic age where people often worshipped many idols and believed in many Gods. There are many stories of Abraham in the (Midrash) smashing his father’s idols, showing Abraham was the first person to believe in a single God.
- God spoke to Abraham and asks Abraham to leave his home and travel to the land promised to his descendents. By his faith in God, he became a nomad.
- Sarah, worried she was too old to bear children, offered Abraham a maidservant named Hagar. Hagar gave birth to Ishmael (Muslims believe to be descendants of Ishmael).
- Eventually, by God’s will, Sarah conceived and gave birth to Isaac. God tested Abraham’s faith by asking him to sacrifice Isaac (Jews believe to be descendants of Isaac).
Mesopotamia and Canaan. In Chapter 12 of Genesis, God directed Abraham to leave Ur in Mesopotamia and go into the land of the Canaanites. This map shows Mesopotamia and Canaan around 1800 BCE. Compare this map with a modern-day map of the same area. What differences and similarities do you see? Which peoples live in these areas today?
Tomb of the Patriarchs. Hebron, Palestine.

Abraham, Issac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca and Leah are buried here.

This site is very important to both Jews and Muslims. Hebron is a sacred city. There is much political and religious tension in the area. Hence, the need for inter-religious dialogue.
The Story of David

Read the Biblical Story from the book 1 Samuel here
The 1st Temple Destruction
Alexander the Great Conquers Jerusalem
The Maccabees Take Back the City and Rededicate the Temple
The Second Destruction of the Temple (by the Romans)

What scholars believe the temple may have looked like before it was destroyed.

The Western Wall is what remains. This wall is the most sacred place for Jews today.
The Western Wall

Prayers are often placed in the cracks between the stones of the Western Wall
The Siege of Masada

- The last Jewish stronghold before the final Roman siege of the area.
- Area was held for three years.
- Romans built a ramp to lay siege on Herod’s palace, which was a refuge for Jewish rebels (Zealots) and their families. Families committed mass suicide.
- Viewed as a symbol of Jewish heroism by some, and viewed by others as problematic (glorifying suicide is not permitted in Judaism)
Rabbinic Judaism

With the destruction of the temple, the Pharisees discovered a new direction in worship that was less focused on the temple. They encouraged people to gather in synagogues or in homes to study the Torah. Understanding the Torah (scriptures) became an important way for diaspora Jews to stay true to the covenant.

As Christianity spread, Christian Jews, Rabbinic Jews and Pharisees become more sectarian, and other factions of Judaism completely disappear from history.
Jews in the Diaspora

When Romans conquered the area and converted to Christianity, this was seen as the beginning of hundreds of years of exile for Jews.

Jews were treated as second class citizens and were often prohibited from taking up certain occupations.
Zionism (1900 Onwards) (copy in notes)

-A movement for the re-establishment and (now) the development and protection of a Jewish nation in what is now Israel. It was established as a political organization in 1897 under Theodor Hertzl.

-Return to the “homeland”

-Early zionists settled Palestine prior to the creation of Israel in 1948
The Holocaust

To be discussed in detail in future lessons...
Homework:
A visual timeline is a visual way of displaying historical information

Complete a visual timeline that displays the information from the slideshow, timeline and note in your own words.

The visual timeline should be titled “Jewish History”

This assignment is designed to help to strengthen skills such as summarizing, synthesizing and organizing important information.