

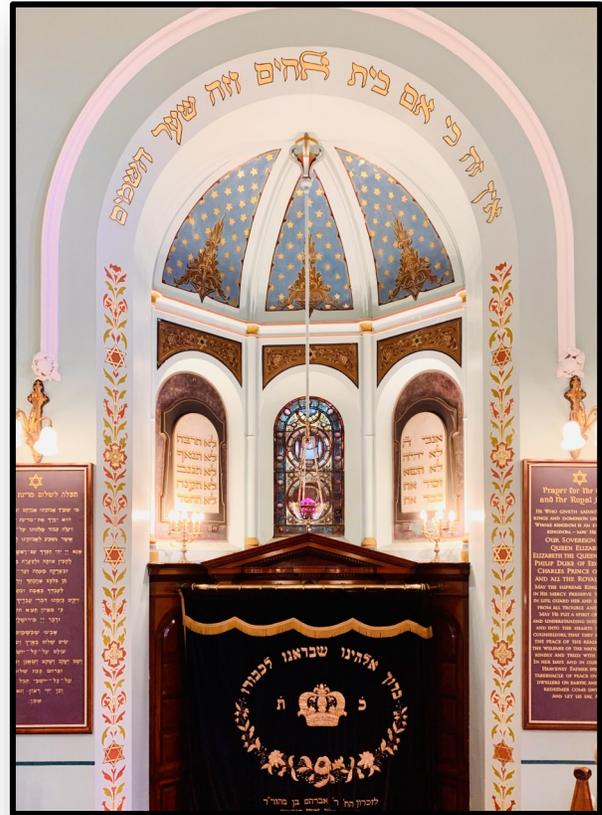


- Look carefully at the pictures. What do you see?
- Have a guess - is this something that would be worn, read, played with or eaten?
- Do you think this is a special object or an everyday thing? Why do you think this, what evidence do you have?
- Do you think this object would be used at home or in the Synagogue? Why?
- Try to describe the object. What words best describe it?

The Object

If you thought this was a special object - you were right

- This is a **Torah** Scroll.
- In the Jewish faith the Torah is the holy book. The Torah contains the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.
- The Christian Bible also begins with these books, in the part Christians call the Old Testament.
- The Torah has 613 **commandments** which are called **mitzvah**. They are the rules that Jews try to follow. The most important ones are the Ten Commandments.



Did you think the object looked like it was treasured and cared for? It is.

- The Torah scroll is dressed in a "cloak" before it is placed in the **Ark** and the curtain drawn.
- The covering protects and beautifies the Torah scroll, it is typically made of velvet and embroidered with golden thread, silk and ornamental beads.

These words could be used to describe the object. Which one do you like best?

Beautiful	Treasured
Special	Protected
Holy	Ornate
Precious	Valuable

If you thought it was used in the Synagogue you were right

- A portion of the Torah is read each week in the Synagogue.
- The Torah is so special that people are not allowed to touch it, when people read from the Torah, they use a special pointer stick called a **yad** to follow the words.
- At the Synagogue in Leicester the Torahs are kept in the **Ark**, which is behind the velvet curtain (see photo above)

