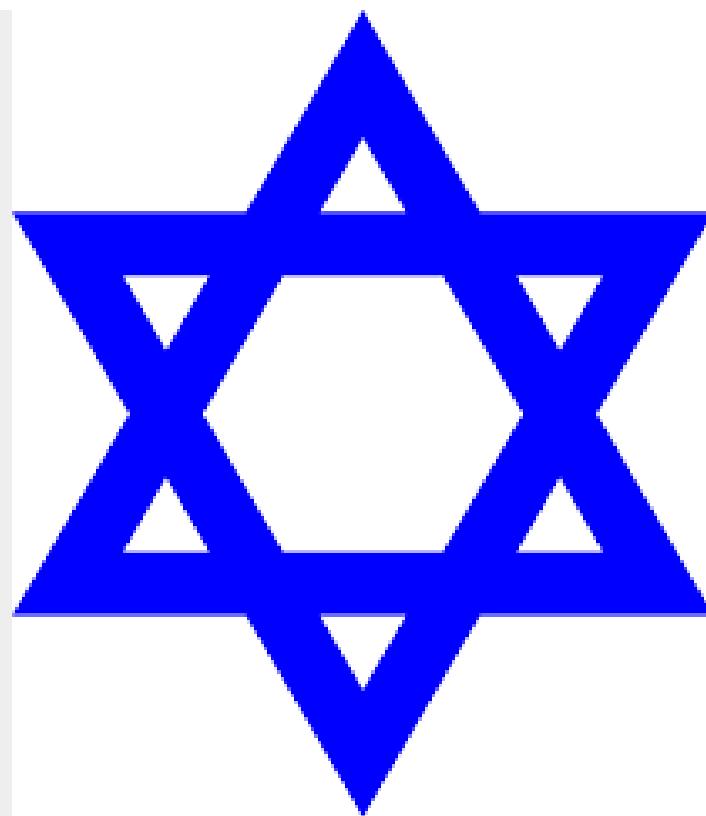


JUDAISM

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- **The Star of David:** This six-pointed star is perhaps the most recognizable symbol of Judaism. While its origins are not entirely certain, it has been used as a Jewish symbol for centuries and was adopted as the official symbol of Zionism in the late 19th century. The Star of David is featured on the flag of Israel and is often seen in synagogues and Jewish homes.
- **The Menorah:** A seven-branched candelabrum, the menorah is one of the oldest symbols of Judaism. It is mentioned in the Bible as part of the furnishings of the Mishkan, the portable tabernacle used by the Israelites in the wilderness. The menorah is seen as a symbol of light, knowledge, and divine guidance. It is also the emblem of the State of Israel.
- **The Torah:** The Torah is the first five books of the Hebrew Bible and is considered the most sacred text in Judaism. It contains the foundational stories and laws of the Jewish faith. The Torah is often kept in a special ark in the synagogue and is read from during religious services.
- **The Mezuzah:** A small scroll containing verses from the Torah, the mezuzah is affixed to the doorposts of Jewish homes. It is a reminder of God's presence and of the Jewish people's obligations to follow the Torah.
- **The Yarmulke:** A head covering worn by Jewish men, the yarmulke is a sign of respect for God. It is also seen as a symbol of Jewish identity.

These are just a few of the many symbols that are important to Judaism. Each symbol has its own unique history and meaning, and they all play a role in shaping the Jewish faith and identity.

