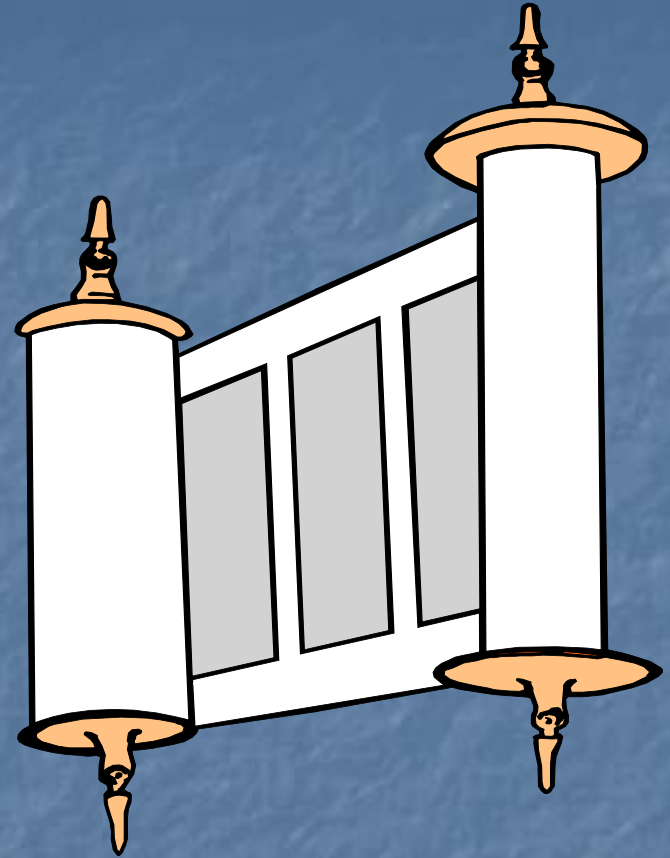


*How is a Torah scroll
made?*

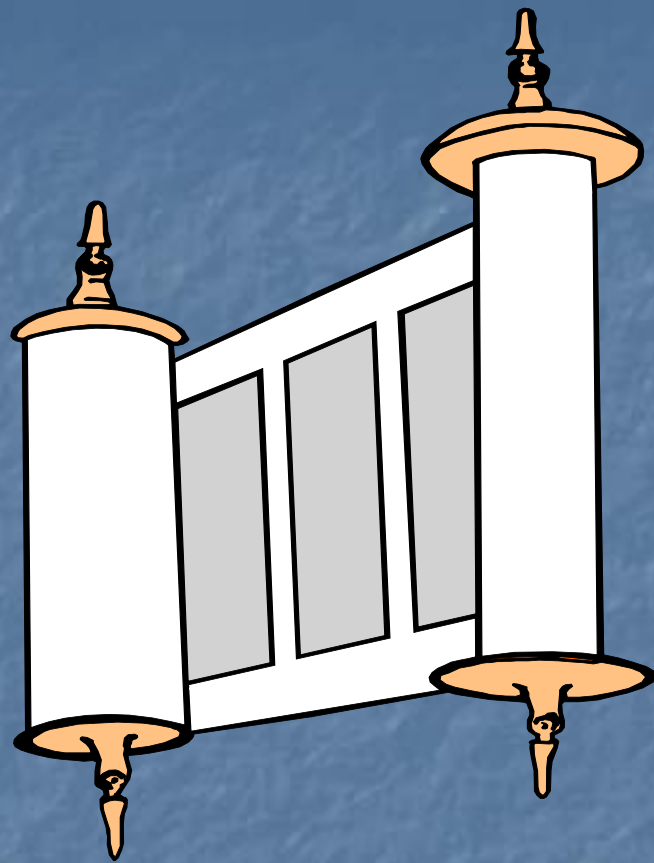
*How is the Torah
revered?*

Torah means "teaching" and refers to the five books of Moses - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

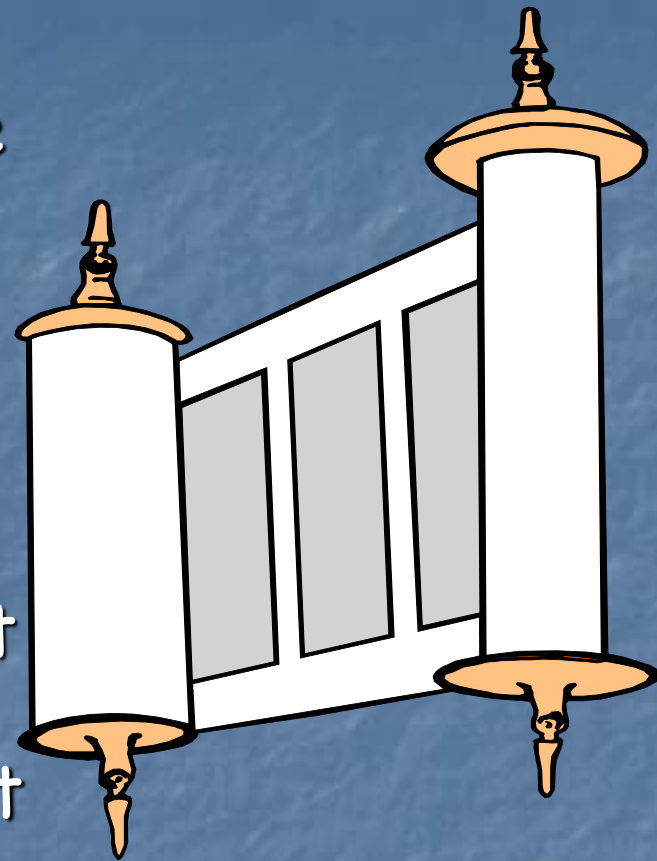
- ❖ A Torah scroll is made from sheets of parchment, which is made from the skin of a *kosher* animal.
- ❖ It is written by hand in Hebrew by a professional scribe, called a *sofer*. Hebrew is read right to left.



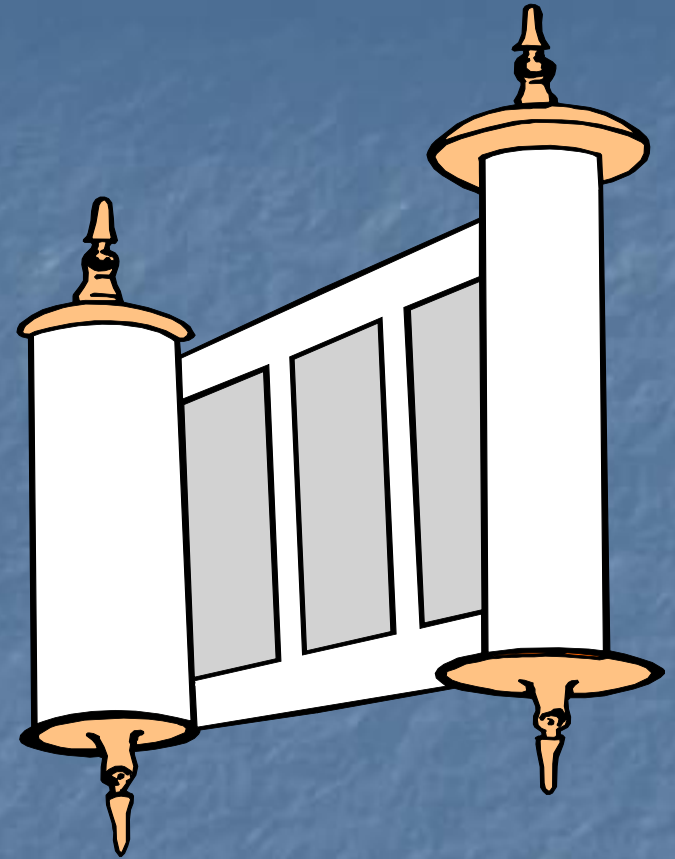
- ❖ The sofer takes at least one year to write out the Torah.
- ❖ He is not allowed to write from memory. He must copy from a book of the Torah, and keep checking for mistakes. Letters must not be smudged or touch another letter.



- ❖ If the *sofer* makes a mistake, he scrapes off the letters using a glass tool.
- ❖ The most sacred word that he writes is the Hebrew name for God. He cannot correct this - he must start the whole sheet of parchment again. The sheet with the error on is buried in a Jewish cemetery.



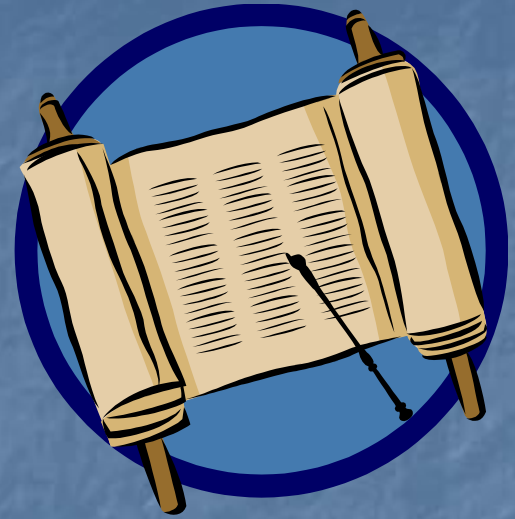
- ❖ When all the sheets of parchment are finished, they are sewn together and wound around wooden rollers.
- ❖ The Torah is regarded as holy, and is decorated as beautifully as possible.



- ❖ It has a velvet cover called a mantle.
- ❖ A silver breastplate is hung on the front of it, like the one worn by High Priests in Biblical times. This is decorated with Jewish symbols.



- ❖ Bells are attached so people hear it being carried around the synagogue.
- ❖ There is also a silver pointer called a yad.



- ❖ A *yad* (meaning hand) is used by Jews to keep their place when reading from the Torah scroll.
- ❖ This is to show respect for the scroll and to prevent the parchment being spoiled by oil from their fingers.



- ❖ When the Torah is not being used, it is kept in a special cupboard at the front of the synagogue, called an Ark.
- ❖ This reminds Jews of the Ark of the Covenant in which Moses and his people carried the Ten Commandments.

