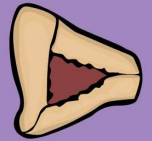




Year 5 R.E.
Week beginning 6th July



L.O.: I understand how the Jewish festival Purim is celebrated





What is Purim?

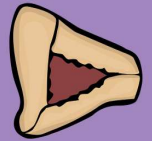
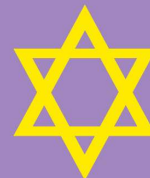
- Purim is an entertaining Jewish holiday.
- It usually falls in March.
- It is always one month before Passover.
- It commemorates the time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved by a young, courageous Jewish woman named Esther.





The Purim Story

- The story of Purim is told in the book of Esther.
- Esther is a Jewish girl who becomes Queen to King Xerxes of Persia.
- By becoming Queen she prevents the death of all the Jews in Persia by persuading King Xerxes not to kill all the Jews.
- The heroes of the story are Esther and her cousin Mordecai.
- The villain is Haman, the favourite nobleman of King Xerxes of Persia. Haman orders the killing of the Jews when Mordecai refuses to bow down to him.
- King Xerxes can also be seen as a villain for his treatment of women and because he was going to kill all the Jews for no good reason.
- Purim commemorates Esther as her courage saved lots of people.



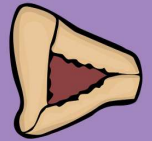
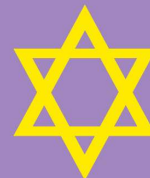


Carnivals

- It is a custom to hold carnival-like celebrations on Purim.
- Plays are performed and beauty contests are held.



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The Book of Esther



- One of the commandments relating to Purim is to hear the reading of the Book of Esther.
- It is read on the eve of Purim and on the day itself.



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Synagogue Celebrations



- Jews read the story of Esther in the synagogue.
- It is an entertaining and loud event.
- The synagogue is crowded with people. Many wear their best clothes or really bright and colourful costumes and masks.





Making a Noise



- In the Purim story there is a villain named Haman.
- Whenever the name of Haman is used during the service noises are made to blot out the name of Haman.
- To blot out Haman's name rattles named graggers are used to make noise (see above).





Dressing Up



- Lots of people dress up during Purim in bright colours as it is a happy time.
- Children like to dress up as the characters in the Book of Esther, including Queen Esther, King Xerxes, Vashti, Mordecai and Haman.



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Food and Drink



- It is a commandment that Jewish people should eat, drink and be merry at Purim.
- Hamantashen are traditionally eaten during Purim. They are biscuits which can be made with many different fillings. They represent Haman's three-cornered hat.



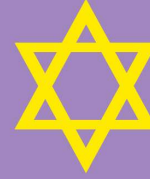


Gifts and Charity



- Jews are also commanded to send gifts of money, food or drink and make donations to charity.
- The sending of food and drink is referred to as 'sending out portions'.





Your task

Create an invitation, asking a friend to come and celebrate **Purim with you!**

Include a bit about what Purim is celebrating (look at pages 2 and 3). Also **include all the exciting details listed below**. Look back over pages 4 – 10 for more details of these.

- Carnivals and plays
- Book of Esther and Synagogue Celebrations
- Making noise
- Dressing up
- Food and drink
- Giving to charity

Your invitation could be a **written letter** or a **poster** with images and captions.

