The wall surrounding the old city of Jerusalem

**The Ancient Israelites**

2000 B.C.  
- c. 1800 B.C. Abraham leads his people to Canaan

1300 B.C.  
- c. 1290 B.C. Moses leads Israelites from Egypt

600 B.C.  
- 722 B.C. Assyrians conquer Israel

A.D. 100  
- A.D. 66 Jews revolt against Romans
Chapter Preview

Like the Sumerians, the ancient Israelites developed a society based on ideas of justice and strict laws. The Israelites believed that there was only one God.

View the Chapter 3 video in the World History: Journey Across Time Video Program.

Section 1

The First Israelites

The 12 tribes of Israel in the land of Canaan traced their ancestry to Abraham. The Israelites believed in one God.

Section 2

The Kingdom of Israel

Under David and Solomon, the people of Israel built a powerful kingdom with a new capital in Jerusalem.

Section 3

The Growth of Judaism

The Jews continued to keep their religion even though other people ruled them. They settled in many places in Asia, Europe, and Africa.

Foldables™ Study Organizer

Summarizing Information

Make this foldable and use it to organize note cards with information about the Israelites.

Step 1 Fold a horizontal sheet of paper (11”x17”) into thirds.

Glue here.

Step 2 Fold the bottom edge up two inches and crease well. Glue the outer edges of the tab to create three pockets.

Glue here.

Step 3 Label the pockets as shown. Use these pockets to hold notes taken on index cards or quarter sheets of paper.

First Israelites

Israel’s Kingdom

Judaism Spreads

Reading and Writing

As you read the chapter, summarize key facts on note cards or on quarter sheets of paper about Israel and the growth and spread of Judaism. Organize your notes by placing them in your pocket foldable inside the appropriate pockets.
Main Idea

1 Learn It!

Finding the Main Idea

Main ideas are the most important ideas in a paragraph, section, or chapter. Supporting details are facts or examples that explain the main idea. Read the following paragraph from Section 1 and notice how the author explains the main idea. The main idea is identified for you. The supporting details are highlighted in color.

Through trade, the Phoenicians spread ideas and goods. One of their most important ideas was an alphabet, or a group of letters that stood for sounds. The letters could be used to spell out the words in their language.

—from page 85

Reading Tip

Often, the first sentence in a paragraph will contain a main idea, and supporting details will come in following sentences. However, main ideas can also appear in the middle or at the end of a paragraph.
While in Babylon, small groups of Jews met on the Sabbath. This was their weekly day of worship and rest. The Jewish Sabbath goes from sunset Friday to sundown Saturday. These weekly meetings took place at synagogues, or Jewish houses of worship. The synagogue meetings gave the people hope.

—from page 94
The First Israelites

What’s the Connection?
You have read how the Egyptians built a great civilization. At about the same time, another nation was forming. The Egyptians called the people of this nation habiru, or foreigners. The people called themselves Israelites or the Children of Israel.

Focusing on the Main Ideas
• The Israelites believed in one God who set down moral laws for his people. They recorded their history in the Hebrew Bible. (page 81)
• The Israelites had to fight the Canaanites to return to their promised land. (page 84)

Locating Places
Canaan (KAY•nuhn)
Mount Sinai (SY•NY)

Meeting People
Abraham
Jacob
Moses
Deborah
Phoenician (fih•NEE•shuhn)

Building Your Vocabulary
monothelism (MAH•nuh•thee•IH•zuhm)
tribe
Torah (TOHR•UH)
covenant (KUHV•nuhnt)
alphabet

Reading Strategy
Sequencing Information Create a sequence chart to help trace the movement of the Israelites.

When & Where?
1400 B.C.
c. 1290 B.C.
Moses leads Israelites from Egypt
1200 B.C.
c. 1125 B.C.
Deborah defeats Canaanites
1000 B.C.
c. 1000 B.C.
David makes Jerusalem the capital of Israel
The Early Israelites

Main Idea The Israelites believed in one God who set down moral laws for his people. They recorded their history in the Hebrew Bible.

Reading Focus Where do your ideas about right and wrong come from? Read on to find out how the Israelites developed their ideas about right and wrong.

About 1200 B.C., great changes took place around the Mediterranean Sea. Empires fell and new people entered the region. Many set up small kingdoms. Around 1000 B.C., a people called Israelites (IHZ • ruh • lyts) built a kingdom in Canaan (KAY • nuhn). Canaan lies along the Mediterranean Sea in southwest Asia.

Who Were the Israelites? Although the Israelite population was small, the religion they practiced would one day affect most of the world. Most people at this time worshiped many gods and goddesses. The Israelite religion focused on only one God. The belief in one God is called monotheism (MAH • nuh • thee • IH • zuhm).

The Israelite faith became the religion known today as Judaism (JOO • dee • IH • zuhm). The followers of Judaism were eventually known as Jews. Judaism influenced Christianity and Islam, and also helped shape the beliefs and practices of societies in Europe and America.

The Israelites spoke a language called Hebrew. They wrote down much of their history and many of their religious beliefs in what later became the Hebrew Bible. In general, the Hebrew Bible is what Christians call the Old Testament. Through this book, Jewish values and religion later spread to Europe.

The earliest Israelites were herders and traders. According to the Hebrew Bible, they came from Mesopotamia and settled in Canaan. Today, Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan occupy the land that was once Canaan.

The Israelites believed they were descended from a man named Abraham. The Hebrew Bible says that God told Abraham and his followers to leave Mesopotamia and go to Canaan. There, they were to worship the one true God. In return, God promised that the land of Canaan would belong to Abraham and his descendants. According to the Hebrew Bible, this is the reason that the Israelites settled in Canaan.

Abraham had a grandson named Jacob. Jacob was also called Israel, which means “one who struggles with God.” Later this name was given to Jacob’s descendants.

According to the Hebrew Bible, Jacob raised 12 sons in Canaan. His family was divided into tribes, or separate family groups. These groups later became known as the 12 tribes of Israel. The Israelites lived in Caanan for about 100 years. Then a long drought began. Crops withered and livestock died. To survive, some Israelites went to Egypt.
From Slavery to Freedom  Life was not good in Egypt. The Egyptian pharaoh needed men to build his pyramids, so he enslaved the Israelites. To prevent a rebellion he ordered all baby boys born to Israelites thrown into the Nile River.

The Hebrew Bible says that one desperate mother put her baby in a basket and hid it on the riverbank. The pharaoh’s daughter found the baby and named him Moses.

When Moses grew up, he tended sheep outside Egypt. Around 1290 B.C., he saw a burning bush and heard a voice. He believed that God was telling him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to freedom.

To get the pharaoh to let the Israelites go, the Hebrew Bible says that God sent 10 plagues to trouble Egypt. The last plague God sent killed all first-born children, except for those of Israelites who marked their doorway with lamb’s blood. This plague convinced the pharaoh to let the Israelites leave.

As Israelites headed east out of Egypt, the pharaoh changed his mind and sent his army after the Israelites. According to the Hebrew Bible, God parted the Red Sea to let his people pass. When the Egyptians followed, the water flowed back and drowned the soldiers. The Israelite escape from Egyptian slavery is known as the Exodus. Jews today celebrate a holy day called Passover to remember these events.

What Are the Ten Commandments?  On their way back to Canaan, the Israelites had to travel through the Sinai desert. The Hebrew Bible says that during this journey, Moses went to the top of Mount Sinai (SY•NY). There, he received laws from God. These laws were known as the Torah (TOHR•uh). They later became the first part of the Hebrew Bible. The Torah described a covenant (KUHV•nuhnt), or agreement, with God in which God promised to return the Israelites to Canaan if they followed his laws.
The Torah explained what God considered to be right and wrong. One important part of the Torah is the Ten Commandments. They are summarized in the feature to the right. The Ten Commandments told the Israelites to be loyal only to God, whose name was never to be spoken. They must never worship any other gods or images. The belief that there should be only one God became the foundation for both Christianity and Islam.

The Ten Commandments helped shape the basic moral laws of many nations. The Ten Commandments told people not to steal, murder, or tell lies about others. They told people to avoid jealousy and to honor their parents. The Ten Commandments also helped develop a belief in the “rule of law.” This is the idea that laws should apply to everyone equally.

**Primary Source**

**The Ten Commandments**

According to the Hebrew Bible, Moses received the Ten Commandments and other laws from God on Mount Sinai. Moses and the Israelites promised to follow these laws.

1. Do not worship any god except me.
2. Do not . . . bow down and worship idols.
3. Do not misuse my name.
4. Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. Do not murder.
7. Be faithful in marriage.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not tell lies about others.
10. Do not want anything that belongs to someone else.

—Paraphrased from Exodus 20:3-17

**DBQ Document-Based Questions**

1. How many of the commandments tell people how to interact with other people?
2. How many tell them how to worship and show respect for God?

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**DBQ Document-Based Questions**

1. How many of the commandments tell people how to interact with other people?
2. How many tell them how to worship and show respect for God?
The Promised Land

Main Idea The Israelites had to fight the Canaanites to return to their promised land.

Reading Focus What qualities do you think a good leader should have? Read on to find out about the leaders of the Israelites.

It probably took the Israelites about 40 years to reach Canaan. Moses never lived to see the Promised Land. After Moses died, a leader named Joshua took over and brought the Israelites into Canaan. When they arrived, however, they found other people living there. Most were Canaanites (KAY•nuh•NYTS). The Israelites believed it was God’s will that they conquer the Canaanites, so Joshua led them into battle.

The story of the campaign is told in the Hebrew Bible. Joshua led the Israelites to the city of Jericho and told them to march around the city’s walls. For six days, they marched while seven priests blew their trumpets. On the seventh day, the trumpets sounded one last time, and Joshua told the Israelites to raise a great shout. According to the story, the walls of Jericho crumbled, and the Israelites overran the city.

Joshua led the Israelites in three more wars. The land they seized was divided among the 12 tribes.

Who Were the Judges? After Joshua died, the Israelites looked to judges for leadership. A judge was usually a military leader. Generally, he or she commanded 1 or 2 tribes, but seldom all 12. The Hebrew Bible tells about Barak, Gideon, Samuel, Eli, Samson, and others, including a woman judge. Her name was Deborah.

Deborah told Barak to attack the army of the Canaanite king Jabin. She went along to the battlefield as an adviser. With Deborah’s help, Barak and 10,000 Israelites destroyed King Jabin and his army in about 1125 B.C.

Over time, the Israelites won control of the hilly region in central Canaan. The Canaanites kept the flat, coastal areas. To protect themselves, the Israelites built walled towns. They also created an alphabet and a calendar based on Canaanite ideas.

The Phoenician Alphabet One group of Canaanites, the Phoenicians (fih•NEE•shuhns), lived in cities along the Mediterranean
Sea. The Phoenicians were skilled sailors and traders. Their ships carried goods across the Mediterranean to Greece, Spain, and even western Africa.

Through trade, the Phoenicians spread ideas and goods. One of their most important ideas was an **alphabet**, or a group of letters that stood for sounds. The letters could be used to spell out the words in their language.

The alphabet made writing simpler and helped people keep records. The Phoenicians brought the idea of an alphabet to the Greeks. They, in turn, passed it on to the Romans. Most Western alphabets are based on the Roman alphabet.

**Reading Check** Identify Who led the Israelites into Canaan, and what city did they conquer under his leadership?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modern Characters</th>
<th>Ancient Phoenician</th>
<th>Ancient Hebrew</th>
<th>Ancient Greek</th>
<th>Early Roman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>א</td>
<td>א</td>
<td>ᾳ</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH</td>
<td>ח</td>
<td>ח</td>
<td>Χ</td>
<td>ח</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Phoenician idea of an alphabet was passed on to the Greeks and then the Romans. **Which modern letter most closely resembles its Phoenician character?**

1. Why was the religion of Israel unique in the ancient world?
2. What is the Torah, and how did the Israelites obtain it?
3. **Summarizing Information**
   Use a web diagram like the one below to list the parts of Jewish religion that are still important in our society.

4. **Analyze** What was the importance of the Phoenician alphabet?
5. **Summarize** What problems did the Israelites face when they returned to Canaan?
6. **Expository Writing** Which one of the Ten Commandments do you think is most important today? Write a short essay to explain your selection.
7. **Reading Main Idea** Write a paragraph by adding supporting details to this main idea: The Phoenician alphabet had an impact on many civilizations.
Section 2

The Kingdom of Israel

Get Ready to Read!

What’s the Connection?
In Section 1, you read about the constant fighting between the Israelites and the Canaanites. The tribes of Israel longed for peace. Many thought the way to peace was to unite as one nation.

Focusing on the Main Ideas
- The Israelites chose a king to unite them against their enemies. (page 87)
- King David built an Israelite empire and made Jerusalem his capital city. (page 89)
- The Israelites were conquered and forced to leave Israel and Judah. (page 90)

Locating Places
Jerusalem (juh•ROO•suh•luhm)
Judah (JOO•duh)

Meeting People
Philistine (FIH•luh•STEEN)
Saul (SAWL)
David
Solomon (SAHL•uh•muhn)
Nebuchadnezzar (NEH•byuh•kuhd•NEH•zuhr)

Building Your Vocabulary
prophet (PRAH•fuht)
empire (EHM•PYR)
tribute (TRIH•byoot)
proverb (PRAH•VUHRB)

Reading Strategy
Categorizing Information Complete a chart like the one below identifying characteristics of Israel and Judah.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Capital City</th>
<th>Date Conquered</th>
<th>Conquered By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

National Geographic When & Where?

1000 B.C.
- c. 1000 B.C. David becomes king

750 B.C.
- 722 B.C. Assyrians conquer Israel

500 B.C.
- 597 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar captures Jerusalem

Interactive Graphic Organizer
The Israelites Choose a King

Main Idea The Israelites chose a king to unite them against their enemies.

Reading Focus What does “united we stand, divided we fall” mean to you? Read on to find out what it meant to the 12 tribes of Israel.

Around 1000 B.C., the strongest people living in Canaan were not the Israelites, but the Philistines (FIH•luh•STEENS). The Philistines had strong cities, and they knew how to make iron tools and weapons. According to the Hebrew Bible, some Israelites began copying the Philistine religion. It suggests the Israelites began to think they needed a king of their own to prevent this problem. They probably believed a king would unite the tribes and help them fight off the Philistines.

The Rule of King Saul

Around 1020 B.C. the Israelites asked Samuel to choose a king. Samuel was a judge and a prophet (PRAH•fuht). A prophet is a person who the ancient Israelites thought was instructed by God. Samuel warned that a king would tax the Israelites and make them slaves. The Israelites still demanded a king, so they chose a warrior-farmer named Saul (SAWL).

Samuel anointed Saul as king. In other words, he blessed him with oil to show that God had chosen him. Saul was tall and handsome and had won many battles.

Saul defeated the Israelites’ enemies in battle after battle. However, according to the Hebrew Bible, the king displeased God by disobeying some of his commands. God then chose another king and instructed Samuel to anoint him in secret. The new king was a young shepherd named David.

Why did the Israelites want a king?

According to the Hebrew Bible, David had to be called in from the fields where he was tending his sheep when Samuel arrived to anoint him. Why did God have Samuel anoint David?
The story of David’s life is told in several books of the Hebrew Bible, including Samuel I and II and Psalms. During his youth, David worked as an aide in King Saul’s court. While at court, he formed a close friendship with the king’s son, Jonathan. David fought courageously against the Philistines as a soldier in Saul’s army. He also killed the Philistine giant, Goliath, with only a slingshot and stones. The first book of Samuel tells how David’s harp playing pleased King Saul. But the king grew jealous of David’s friendship with Jonathan and of David’s growing popularity as a brave soldier.

To save his own life, David fled into the desert. During this time, David led a group of other outlaws. David and his band protected people from raiders and returned possessions that had been stolen. By the time David returned to Jerusalem, he was well-known throughout the land.

After the death of King Saul, according to the Hebrew Bible, David became the second king of Israel. David successfully united all the tribes of Israel. He then conquered Jerusalem and made it the kingdom’s capital. During his reign, David built Israel into an empire and dominated neighboring kingdoms.

David was not only a brave warrior and successful leader, he was also a talented poet. Many of the hymns in the Hebrew Bible’s Book of Psalms have been credited to David, including Psalm 23, which begins “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

In David’s time, kings were expected to excel in battle. Conduct research to find at least three U.S. presidents who built their reputations in the military.
David and Solomon

Main Idea  King David built an Israelite empire and made Jerusalem his capital city.

Reading Focus  What person do you think was most important in the history of the United States? Read to learn why King David is so important to the history of the Jewish people.

Even before he became king of Israel, David was known for his bravery and leadership. In the Hebrew Bible, the story of David and Goliath describes how he became famous. Before a battle against the Philistines, a giant Philistine named Goliath dared any Israelite to fight him one-on-one. David stepped forward with his shepherd’s staff, a slingshot, and five smooth stones.

Goliath roared and rushed forward with a heavy spear. David hurled one stone straight at the giant’s forehead, and Goliath dropped dead on the spot.

Saul put David in charge of the army. As his victories grew, Israelite women sang his praises. “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.” Saul grew envious and plotted to kill David.

David hid out in enemy territory until Saul and his three sons were killed in battle. The bitter rivalry was over. David was able to take the throne in about 1000 B.C.

Once in power, according to the Hebrew Bible, David drove the Philistines from the area. He conquered other neighboring nations and created an empire (EHM•PYR). An empire is a nation that rules several other nations. Conquered peoples had to pay David tribute (TRIH•byoot). Tribute is money or slaves given to a stronger ruler.

David made the Israelites pay heavy taxes. He needed money to expand Israel’s capital, Jerusalem (juh•ROO•suh•luhm). He wanted a fine temple there so that sacred religious objects cherished by the Israelites would finally have a permanent home. David died before he built the temple, but the Israelites remembered him as their greatest king, as do Jews today.

The Rule of King Solomon  When David died, his son Solomon (SAHL•uh•muhn) became king. It was Solomon who built a splendid stone temple in Jerusalem. It became the symbol and center of the Jewish religion. In the Hebrew Bible, Solomon was known for his wise sayings, or proverbs (PRAH•VUHRBS), but many Israelites hated his rule. Solomon taxed the people to pay for his great buildings.
The Israelites in the north were especially unhappy with Solomon. To get more money, Solomon had made many of their young men work in the mines of a neighboring country.

When Solomon died, the northerners rebelled and fighting broke out. Ten of the 12 tribes set up their own nation in the north. It was called the kingdom of Israel, and its capital was Samaria. In the south, the other two tribes founded the smaller kingdom of Judah (JOO•duh). Its capital was Jerusalem, and its people were called Jews.

**Why did Solomon tax the people so heavily?**

**A Troubled Time**

**Main Idea** The Israelites were conquered and forced to leave Israel and Judah.

**Reading Focus** Have you ever moved and left a home you loved? Read to find out why many Israelites were forced to leave their home.

While the Israelites were dividing their kingdom, the Assyrians and Chaldeans (kal•DEE•uhns) were building empires in southwest Asia. These peoples wanted to control the trade routes that ran through the Israelite kingdoms. Small and weak, the kingdoms of Israel and Judah felt threatened by their powerful neighbors.
Who Were the Prophets? During this troubled time, people who became known as prophets brought hope to the kingdom of Israel. The prophets emphasized that people should please God by leading a moral life and helping others. Their special message was that being faithful meant more than going to a temple to worship. It meant working for a just society. The prophet Amos said that justice should “roll down like waters and righteousness as a mighty stream.” The Jewish goal of a just society also became an important part of Christianity and Islam.

What Caused the Fall of Israel? The war-like Assyrians were feared everywhere in the region. When they conquered a nation, the Assyrians destroyed its main buildings and scattered the population. Assyrians then settled in the territory.

In 722 B.C. the Assyrians conquered Israel and scattered the 10 tribes across their empire. Over time, the Israelites who were forced to move lost contact with those who remained in Israel and Judah. Historians do not yet know what happened to these tribes. They are often called the “lost tribes of Israel.”

The Assyrians brought people from elsewhere in their empire to live in Samaria. These settlers mixed with the surviving Israelites who had not been killed or forced to move. A new culture developed and the people became known as Samaritans.

The Samaritans adopted many Israelite beliefs. They worshiped the God of Israel, read the Torah, and followed the Israelites’ religious laws. Over time their religious practices developed separately, and they
had little contact. Judaism developed from the religious practices of the tribes of Judah.

**Why Did Judah Fall?** Now, only the small kingdom of Judah was left of the once proud empire of David. It did not last long, because the Egyptians conquered it about 620 B.C. The Jews were able to keep their king but paid tribute to Egypt.

However, Egyptian rule was cut short when the Chaldeans conquered Egypt in 605 B.C. The Chaldeans became the new rulers of Judah. At first, the Chaldeans treated the Israelites like the Egyptians had before. They allowed the Jews to keep their king as long as they paid tribute.

Several years later, the Jews united with the Egyptians to rebel against the Chaldeans. Judah held out against the Chaldean invasion until 597 B.C. That year, King Nebuchadnezzar (NEH·byuh·kuhd·NEH·zuhr) of the Chaldeans captured Jerusalem. He punished the Jews severely. He made 10,000 Jews leave the city and live in Babylon, the Chaldean capital. Then he appointed a new Jewish king.

Soon the new king of Judah was planning a revolt against the Chaldeans. A prophet named Jeremiah warned him that another revolt was dangerous, but the king did not listen. In 586 B.C. he revolted. This time, the Chaldean ruler crushed Jerusalem. He destroyed the temple, bound the king in chains, and took him and thousands of Jews to Babylon. In Jewish history, this time became known as the Babylonian Captivity.

**Reading Check** **Explain** Why did the Assyrians and Chaldeans want to control the land belonging to the Israelites?
What’s the Connection?

In Section 2, you learned that the Chaldeans forced thousands of Jews to go to Babylon. Life in Babylon was very difficult. Many of Judah’s people looked to their religion for hope and strength.

Focusing on the Main Ideas

• The Jews continued their religion during their exile in Babylon. (page 94)
• Jews spread their beliefs to the Greek world and regained control of Judah. (page 95)
• Religion shaped the Jewish way of life. (page 97)
• Under Roman rule, the Jews were divided and rebellious. In response, the Romans destroyed the temple and exiled the Jews. (page 100)

Locating Places

Babylon (BA•buh•luhn)

Meeting People

Judas Maccabeus
(JOO•duhs MAK•uh•BEE•uhs)
Herod (HEHR•uhd)
Zealot (ZEH•luht)
Yohanan ben Zaccur
(YOH•kah•nahn behn•zah•KY)

Building Your Vocabulary

exile (EHG•ZYL)
Sabbath (SA•buhth)
synagogue (SIH•nuh•GAHG)
Diaspora (dy•AS•pruh)
messiah (muh•SY•uh)
rabbi (RA•BY)

Reading Strategy

Summarizing Information Use a diagram like the one below to describe the Maccabees.

Maccabees

When & Where?

600 B.C. 250 B.C. A.D. 100

558 B.C. 168 B.C. A.D. 66
Cyrus allows Jews to return to Judah
Judas Maccabeus rebels against Antiochus
Jews revolt against Romans
Exile and Return

Main Idea The Jews continued their religion during their exile in Babylon.

Reading Focus Have you ever learned something important by experiencing a hardship? Read on to find out what lessons the Jews learned from hard times.

The Jews called their time in Babylon (BA•buh•luhn) an exile (EHG•zyl). This means they were forced to leave their homeland. During their exile, the Israelite religion became what we call Judaism.

While in Babylon, small groups of Jews met on the Sabbath (SA•buhth). This was their weekly day of worship and rest. The Jewish Sabbath goes from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. These weekly meetings took place at synagogues (SIH•nuh•GAHGS), or Jewish houses of worship. The synagogue meetings gave the people hope.

Why Did Jews Return to Judah? During the 500s B.C., a group of people called Persians swept across southwest Asia. The Persians defeated the Chaldeans and took over Babylon. In 538 B.C. the Persian king Cyrus permitted Jews to return to Judah.

Some Jews stayed in Babylon, but many went home. They rebuilt Jerusalem and the temple. Cyrus appointed officials to rule the country and collected taxes from the people. The Persians did not allow the Jews to have their own government or king, so the Jews depended mainly on their religious leaders—not temple priests and scribes—to run their society.

Many scribes became religious scholars. Under a scribe named Ezra, the Jews wrote the five books of the Torah on pieces of parchment. They sewed the pieces together to make long scrolls. The Torah and writings that were added later made up the Hebrew Bible.
The Jews and the Greeks

Main Idea: Jews spread their beliefs to the Greek world and regained control of Judah.

Reading Focus: How do you show loyalty to friends and family? In the following paragraphs, you’ll learn how Jews showed loyalty to their religion and country.

In 334 B.C., a king named Alexander the Great set out to conquer kingdoms in western Asia. In 331 B.C., his armies defeated the Persians, so Judah came under his control. Fortunately, Alexander allowed the Jews to stay in Judah. However, Alexander, who loved all things Greek, introduced the Greek language and Greek ways to Judah.

What Was the Diaspora? At the time, Jews were living throughout Alexander’s empire. Many still lived in Babylon. Some lived in Egypt and other lands bordering the Mediterranean Sea. The scattering of the Jews outside of Israel and Judah became known as the Diaspora (dy•AS•pruh).

According to the Hebrew Bible, Daniel was thrown into a lion’s den for refusing to worship the Babylonian gods. God, however, kept Daniel safe from the lions. What lesson did this story present to the Jews?

The Jews Look to the Future: Parts of the Hebrew Bible describe God’s plan for a peaceful future. The book of Daniel addresses this issue. Daniel lived in Babylon and was a trusted adviser of the king. However, he refused to worship Babylonian gods. The Chaldeans threw Daniel into a lion’s den, but God protected Daniel from the lions. The story was meant to remind Jews that God would rescue them.

The Jews believed that evil and suffering would eventually be replaced by goodness. Christians and Muslims share this idea of good triumphing over evil.
Diaspora is a Greek word that means “scattered.”

Many Jews of the Diaspora learned the Greek language and Greek ways but remained loyal to Judaism. A group of them copied the Hebrew Bible into Greek. This Greek version helped people who were not Jews to read and understand the Hebrew Bible. As a result, Jewish ideas spread throughout the Mediterranean world.

Who Were the Maccabees? In 168 B.C. a Greek ruler named Antiochus (an•TY•uh kuhs) controlled Judah. He decided to make the Jews of Judah worship Greek gods and goddesses. A priest named Judas Maccabeus (JOO•duhs MAK•uh•BEE•uhs) and his followers rebelled. They fled to the hills and formed an army known as the Maccabees.

After many battles, the Maccabees drove the Greeks out of Judah. They destroyed all traces of Greek gods and goddesses in their temple and rededicated it to the worship of God. Each year Jews recall the cleansing of the temple when they celebrate Hanukkah (HAH•nuh•kuh).

Priests from Judas Maccabeus’s family became the new rulers of Judah. Under their leadership, Judah took over land that had been part of the kingdom of Israel.

Reading Check Analyze How did Alexander the Great affect the Israelites?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time of Year</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Reason for the Holy Day</th>
<th>Customs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passover</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>8 days (7 in Israel)</td>
<td>to celebrate the escape of the Jews from slavery in Egypt and their return to the Promised Land</td>
<td>foods with leavening are not eaten to remember the haste of the flight from slavery to freedom when there was not time for the bread to rise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosh Hoshana</td>
<td>September or October</td>
<td>2 days</td>
<td>to celebrate the Jewish New Year</td>
<td>plan changes for the new year; no work; synagogue services; a shofar (ram’s horn) is blown in synagogues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yom Kippur</td>
<td>September or October</td>
<td>25 hours</td>
<td>to make amends for sins of the past year</td>
<td>no work; synagogue services; pray; fast; apologize for wrongs during the past year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanukkah</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>8 days</td>
<td>to celebrate religious freedom and the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem</td>
<td>light candles each night; eat fried foods; play a game called dreidel; give gifts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**The Jewish Way of Life**

**Main Idea** Religion shaped the Jewish way of life.

**Reading Focus** What types of things influence the way you live? Read to find out how religion influenced Jewish life.

Jewish law set out many rules for Jews to follow that affected their daily life. These laws influenced their education, the foods they ate, and even the clothes they wore. They also required Jews to provide for the poor, visit the sick, do good deeds, give to charity, and apply just laws to rich and poor alike. The laws emphasized self-control and reminded Jews of their religion.

**Family Life** The Jews placed great importance on family. Sons were especially valued because they carried on the family name. Upon a father’s death, the son became head of the family.

Education was also important. Jewish children’s first teachers were their mothers. When sons grew old enough, fathers taught them how to earn an income and to worship God. Later, elders took over the religious education of boys and taught them the Torah. Because reading the Torah was

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**Head Coverings**

**THEN** Under Greek rule, Jewish leaders began covering their heads to distinguish themselves from the Greeks and to remind themselves to think about God. Gradually, all Jewish men started wearing turbans or skull caps. Jewish women always kept their heads covered because a woman’s hair was considered very private.

**NOW** Jews still wear head coverings, but only the most conservative—Orthodox Jews—wear them at all times. Most Jewish men wear skull caps called yarmulkes, or kippahs. Jewish women wear scarves, hats, or skull caps.
Education in Ancient Israel and Judah

Early Israelites placed a high value on education. Rabbis—Jewish religious teachers—taught their followers, “If you have knowledge, you have everything.”

Fathers taught their young sons the commandments. They also taught them about the meanings of Jewish traditions and holy feasts. At age five, boys went to a school that was connected with the synagogue. There, the hazan, a special teacher of the synagogue, taught them the Torah. Everything the students learned—from the alphabet to Jewish history—they learned from the Torah.

Jewish laws decided the stages of students’ education. Different subjects were introduced at the ages of 5, 10, and 13. Most Jewish boys finished their education at age 13. At that age, boys became adults.

Connecting to the Past

1. Why was education important to the ancient Israelites?
2. What was a father’s role in his son’s education?

The Way It Was

Young People In...

Education in Ancient Israel and Judah

central to Jewish life, religious teachers became important community leaders.

Mothers educated their daughters at home. The girls learned to be good wives, mothers, and housekeepers. This included learning Jewish laws about food and clothing. They also learned about the courageous women of ancient Israel. One of these women was Ruth. Her biography appears on the next page. Her courage and devotion to her family provided an example for Jewish girls to follow.

The Jewish Diet

Under Jewish law, Jews could eat only certain animals. For example, they could eat beef and lamb but not pork. They could eat scaly fish, like salmon, but not shellfish or smooth-skinned fish, like eels. Laws about food are known as kashrut, which means “that which is proper.”

Today, food that is prepared according to Jewish dietary laws is called kosher. Animals used for kosher meat must be killed in a special way. The meat must be inspected, salted, and soaked. To be kosher, Jews must not cook or eat milk products with meat.

In ancient times, everyday meals were made up of fish, fruit, vegetables, and barley bread. Beverages included mainly milk, water, wine, and beer.

Jewish Clothing

Jewish law forbade mixing some fabrics. So women used flax or wool to make cloth but did not combine the two.

Jewish men wore tunics made of linen next to their skin. Some men layered another tunic on top of the first. In cold weather, they wore wool or sheepskin cloaks. On their heads, they wore caps or turbans. On their feet, they wore sandals. Women draped themselves in long, simple dresses. They covered their heads with shawls. Wealthy women wore leather shoes, wore makeup, and owned jewelry.

Analyze Why were sons especially valued in ancient Jewish society?
RUTH AND NAOMI

To show the importance of family love and devotion, Jewish girls learned about the relationship between Ruth and Naomi. The Book of Ruth in the Hebrew Bible tells about Ruth’s life and of her dedication to her mother-in-law, Naomi. Years before, there was so little food in Bethlehem that Naomi, her husband, and their two sons moved to Moab. There, one of their sons married Ruth. Tragically, Naomi’s husband and both of her sons died. Naomi wanted to return to Bethlehem, but she urged Ruth to stay in Moab with her parents and friends. Ruth refused to leave Naomi by herself. She insisted on traveling with her to Bethlehem. Ruth, a convert to the Israelite religion, said to Naomi, “Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge; I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”

Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest. Because Ruth was from Moab, she was considered an outsider by the Israelites. Furthermore, because Ruth was a widow and did not have children, she did not have any property rights. To survive in Bethlehem, she had to rely upon her mother-in-law’s advice and the kindness of a wealthy landowner named Boaz.

During the harvest, Ruth worked in Boaz’s fields, gathering grain left behind on the ground by the reapers. It was hard work that began at dawn and ended at dusk, but Ruth never complained. She soon earned the respect and admiration of her new people. In time, Ruth married Boaz. They had a son named Obed. In the Hebrew Bible, at the end of the Book of Ruth, Obed is named as the grandfather of David, the future king of Israel.

Then and Now

To survive in Bethlehem, Ruth had to rely on Naomi and Boaz. If a present-day woman moved to a new city, what resources would she use to help her find work, shelter, and other necessities?
The Jews and the Romans

Main Idea Under Roman rule, the Jews were divided and rebellious. In response, the Romans destroyed the temple and exiled the Jews.

Reading Focus Do you consider freedom worth fighting for? Read to find out what happened to the Jews after they fought for their freedom.

In 63 B.C. a people known as the Romans conquered Judah. Led by powerful generals, the Romans were intent on expanding their empire. The Roman capital was far to the west in what is today the country of Italy. When the Romans conquered Judah, they renamed it Judaea (joo•DEE•uh). At first, the Romans allowed Jewish rulers to run Judaea.

The Rule of King Herod The most famous ruler of Judaea during this time was King Herod (HEHR•uhd). He is known for the additions he made to the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. He made the temple one of the most awe-inspiring buildings in the Roman world.

Shortly after Herod died, the Romans replaced the Jewish king with Roman officials. The Jews were divided over the best way to deal with the Romans. Different groups had different opinions about the best course of action.

One group of Jews was known as the Pharisees (FAR•uh•seez). They taught the Torah and how to apply its laws to daily life. In doing so, they helped make Judaism a religion of the home and family. The Pharisees taught in synagogues and were supported by the common people.

One of the main teachings that set the Pharisees apart from other groups was their support of the oral traditions. These were teachings of Jewish leaders and interpretations of Jewish writings that had been passed down over time by word of mouth. The Pharisees believed the oral traditions were very important in helping people obey the commandments.

The Sadducees (SA•juh•seez) also accepted the Torah. However, they were more concerned about how it applied to the priests in the Temple. This was because many of them were priests and scribes. They did not agree with many of the Pharisees’ teachings.

For example, they did not hold to the oral traditions. Instead, they emphasized the written law and commandments.

A third group was called Essenes (ih•SEENZ). They were priests who broke away from the Temple in Jerusalem. Many Essenes lived together in the desert. They

Dead Sea Scrolls

In A.D. 1947 shepherd children in the Judaean desert near the Dead Sea found the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls in a cave. The Dead Sea Scrolls are ancient scrolls of leather, papyrus, and one of copper written between 200 B.C. and A.D. 68. The documents include the oldest complete copy of the Book of Isaiah and pieces of many other books of the Hebrew Bible. Most scholars believe that the scrolls were part of a library that belonged to an early Jewish community.
spent their lives praying and waiting for God to deliver the Jews from the Romans. Like the Sadducees, the Essenes strictly followed the written law.

In A.D. 1947 ancient scrolls were found in caves near the Dead Sea. Because of this, they became known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. The scrolls have helped historians understand more about Judaism during Roman times.

**Jewish Revolts** During the A.D. 60s, Jewish hatred of Roman rule was at its peak. Many Jews were waiting for a **messiah** (muh•SY•uh), or deliverer sent by God. Other Jews known as **Zealots** (ZEH•luhts) wanted to fight the Romans for their freedom.

In A.D. 66 the Zealots revolted against the Romans and drove them out of Jerusalem. Four years later, the Romans retook Jerusalem. They killed thousands of Jews and forced many others to leave. The Romans also destroyed the temple in Jerusalem. The Western Wall is all that remains of it today.

The Jews revolted again in A.D. 132. Three years later, the Romans crushed the revolt. This time, the Romans forbade Jews to live in or even visit Jerusalem. They began calling Judah by the name of Palestine. This name refers to the Philistines, whom the Israelites had conquered centuries before.

**Jewish Teachers** Despite losing their land, the Jews managed to survive. They no longer had priests. Instead, leaders called **rabbis** (RA•BYZ) became important. Rabbis were teachers of the Torah.

One of the most famous rabbis was **Yohanan ben Zaccai** (YOH•kah•nahn behn zah•KY). After the sacking of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, he made sure the study of the Torah
One of the Ten Commandments tells Jews to keep the Sabbath holy. Part of the Talmud declares that most types of work and business are not allowed on the Sabbath, or Jewish day of worship. This passage identifies the only times it is okay to break those rules.

“One is permitted to remove debris on the Sabbath in order to save a life or to act for the benefit of the community; and we may assemble in the synagogue on the Sabbath to conduct public business [i.e., matters of community concern].”

—The Talmud for Today, Rabbi Alexander Feinsilver, trans. and ed.

Why do you think these exceptions were made for the benefit of the community?

Reading Summary

Review the Main Ideas

1. During their exile in Babylon, the Jews developed their religion, which is based upon the Hebrew Bible.
2. Jews spread their ideas to the Greek world. About 168 B.C., they fought the Greeks for control of Judah.
3. Religious laws concerning food and clothing affected everyday Jewish life.
4. In 63 B.C., Judah was taken over by the Roman Empire.

Critical Thinking

3. Organizing Information
   Draw a table to describe the differences between these three Jewish groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pharisees</th>
<th>Sadducees</th>
<th>Essenes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Summarize How did the Jews practice their religion during the exile in Babylon?

5. Identify Who was Yohannan ben Zaccai, and why was he important?

6. Draw Conclusions Do you think that Jewish beliefs and values would have spread so widely if the lands of Israel and Judah had not been conquered by other peoples? Explain.

7. Persuasive Writing Imagine you are living in Judaea during the Roman conquest. Write a letter to a friend describing how you might have felt about the Romans and what actions you would like to see taken to make Judaea free again.
**The First Israelites**

**Vocabulary**
- monotheism
- tribe
- Torah
- covenant
- alphabet

**Focusing on the Main Ideas**
- The Israelites believed in one God who set down moral laws for his people. They recorded their history in the Hebrew Bible. *(page 81)*
- The Israelites had to fight the Canaanites to return to their promised land. *(page 84)*

**The Kingdom of Israel**

**Vocabulary**
- prophet
- empire
- tribute
- proverb

**Focusing on the Main Ideas**
- The Israelites chose a king to unite them against their enemies. *(page 87)*
- King David built an Israelite empire and made Jerusalem his capital city. *(page 89)*
- The Israelites were conquered and forced to leave Israel and Judah. *(page 90)*

**The Growth of Judaism**

**Vocabulary**
- exile
- Sabbath
- synagogue
- Diaspora
- messiah
- rabbi

**Focusing on the Main Ideas**
- The Jews continued their religion during their exile in Babylon. *(page 94)*
- Jews spread their beliefs to the Greek world and regained control of Judah. *(page 95)*
- Religion shaped the Jewish way of life. *(page 97)*
- Under Roman rule, the Jews were divided and rebellious. In response, the Romans destroyed the temple and exiled the Jews. *(page 100)*

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*Moses with the Ten Commandments*

*Torah scrolls*
Review Vocabulary

Match the definitions in the second column to the terms in the first column.

1. tribe  a. Jewish house of worship
2. prophet b. believed to be inspired by God
3. synagogue c. family group
4. Sabbath d. holy day of worship and rest
5. messiah e. forced absence
6. monotheism f. belief in only one god
7. covenant g. deliverer sent by God
8. exile h. agreement

Section 2 • The Kingdom of Israel
11. Why did the Israelites choose a king?
12. What happened when the Israelites were conquered?

Section 3 • The Growth of Judaism
13. How did Jewish ideas spread throughout the Mediterranean world?
14. How did Romans respond to Jewish rebellions?

Critical Thinking
15. Contrast How was the Jewish religion different from religions of other ancient cultures?
16. Analyze Why do you think the Israelites felt so strongly about a Promised Land?
17. Compare and Contrast How were Saul and David similar, and how were they different?
18. Explain How did the Jewish religion survive during the exile of the Jews?
19. Describe What is celebrated on the Jewish holy day of Hanukkah?

Review Main Ideas

Section 1 • The First Israelites
9. Where did the Israelites record their history and religious beliefs?
10. Why did the Israelites fight the Canaanites?

Finding the Main Idea

20. Read the paragraph below from page 101. Create a graphic organizer that shows the main idea and supporting details.

In A.D. 1947 ancient scrolls were found in caves near the Dead Sea. Because of this, they became known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. The scrolls have helped historians understand more about Judaism during Roman times.
Geography Skills
Study the map below and answer the following questions.

21. Location Which kingdom—Israel or Judah—had an advantage when it came to trade? Why?
22. Identify What advantage did Judah have over Israel?
23. Analyze Why did the Phoenicians focus on trade rather than farming?

Read to Write

24. Descriptive Writing Imagine you are living in Jerusalem during the time of King Solomon. Write a letter to a friend describing the things Solomon is doing as leader. Be sure to mention which of these things the people like and which they do not like.

25. Summarize Choose three events in this chapter that you think were the most important to the history of the Israelites. Write a headline for each that might have appeared in a newspaper of that time.

26. Using Your Foldables Use the information you wrote in your three-pocket foldable to create a fill-in-the-blank quiz for a classmate. Write a paragraph about one of the sections, leaving blanks for your classmate to fill in. Leave blanks for vocabulary words or significant places and people.

Using Technology

27. Organizing Information Search the Internet or your local library for information about the early Phoenicians and Philistines. Use the computer to create a chart comparing the two cultures. Include headings such as Location, Time Period, Major Contributions, and Achievements.

Linking Past and Present

28. Making Comparisons The Israelites moved from place to place within the same region along the Mediterranean. Trace the route of one of their journeys on a map of ancient times. Then trace the route again on a map showing that region as it is today. Identify the current nations and landmarks in that region.

Analyze

The following passage describes the effects of the attack on Judaea. The passage is written by Josephus, a Jewish historian in the Roman era.

“Throughout the city people were dying of hunger in large numbers....In every house the merest hint of food sparked violence, and close relatives fell to blows....No respect was paid even to the dying; the ruffians searched them, in case they were concealing food somewhere in their clothes.”

—Josephus, “The Siege of Jerusalem”

29. What does Josephus mean when he says “No respect was paid even to the dying”?  
30. How might this account have been different if it had been written by a Roman soldier?
Comparing Civilizations

Compare the civilizations that you have read about by reviewing the information below. Can you see how the people of these civilizations helped to build the world we live in today?

### Where did these civilizations develop?

- **First Civilizations**
  - Between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers

- **Ancient Egypt**
  - Along the banks of the Nile River

- **Ancient Israelites**
  - In Israel and Juddah

### Who are some important people in these civilizations?

- **First Civilizations**
  - Sargon, c. 2340–2279 B.C.
  - Hammurabi, c. 1792–1750 B.C.
  - Nebuchadnezzar, c. 605–562 B.C.

- **Ancient Egypt**
  - King Khufu, c. 2540 B.C.
  - Hatshepsut, ruled c. 1470 B.C.
  - Ramses II, c. 1279–1213 B.C.
  - Kashta, c. 750 B.C.

- **Ancient Israelites**
  - Abraham, c. 1800 B.C.
  - Moses, c. 1250 B.C.
  - David, c. 1000–970 B.C.
  - The Maccabees, 168 B.C.

### Where did most of the people live?

- **First Civilizations**
  - Most people lived on farms near walled cities
  - The center of the city was the ziggurat

- **Ancient Egypt**
  - Some people lived in large cities
  - Most people lived in villages along the Nile River

- **Ancient Israelites**
  - Most people lived in small villages or near the city of Jerusalem
What was their government like?

• Early Mesopotamians were ruled by priests
• Later, kings ruled the people; they believed kings had divine approval
• Pharaoh was a ruler-priest and a god
• Pharaoh owned all land in Egypt

What was their language and writing like?

• Early: cuneiform: wedge-shaped characters
• Later: a Semitic language
• Hieroglyphics: images that stood for ideas
• Adapted Phoenician characters to form letters and words
• Developed writing
• Developed a calendar
• Built large temples and pyramids
• Developed ideas of legal system
• Passed on ideas of justice, fairness, and government
• Studied systems of time and created calendars
• Introduced iron weapons
• Built machines to move water to crops
• Developed systems of mathematics
• Created a calendar

What were their contributions?

• Early Israelites were led by prophets
• Later, they were led by judges, then kings
• Early Israelites were led by prophets
• Later, they were ruled by priests
• Pharaoh was a ruler-priest and a god
• Pharaoh owned all land in Egypt
• The gods appointed the rulers

What do these contributions affect me? Can you add any?

• Similar measurements are still used in building today
• Our system of time is based on seconds, minutes, and hours
• Pyramids and other structures still amaze people today
• Many religions today are based on ideas similar to those of the early Israelites
• Believed in one God
• Worshipped many different gods and goddesses
• Worshipped gods and goddesses as a record of their history and religion
• Worshipped one God
• Wrote the Hebrew Bible as a record of their history and religion
• The gods appointed the rulers

What were these people's beliefs?

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