

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

To understand what the Jewish New Year means and how it is celebrated.

**CURRICULUM LINKS**

PSHE and citizenship: KS2 2e – to reflect on spiritual and cultural issues; 2i – to appreciate the range of religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom.

# Rosh Hashana

## What you need

Sliced apples; honey; writing and drawing/painting materials.

## Background

Rosh Hashana is the festival marking the first and second days of the Jewish New Year, when Jewish people look back on the past year and think about what they have achieved. It is celebrated in September or October. A great deal of time is spent in the synagogue during this festival, asking forgiveness for the sins of the past year. Rosh Hashana begins with a ram's horn (called a shofar) being blown like a trumpet. This is the signal for everyone in the synagogue to think about the past year. The ten-day festival ends with Yom Kippur (see page 9).

## What to do

- Talk about when and how New Year in Britain is celebrated. Explain when Rosh Hashana is celebrated and that it is based on a different calendar.
- Tell them that Rosh Hashana is different because it is a religious festival and that much time is spent in the synagogue asking for forgiveness for the sins of the past year.
- Offer the children slices of apple and let them dip them in honey and eat them. As they are doing this, explain to them that after the service on the first evening of the festival a special meal is eaten – including apples dipped in honey.
- Discuss with the children their responses to these questions that are asked during the festival:
  1. What is the most meaningful thing in my life?
  2. Who means the most to me and how often do I let them know it?
  3. What are the most significant things I have achieved during the past year? (For example, winning a football competition.)
  4. What do I hope to achieve next year and in my life generally?
- Ask them to draw, paint or write about their answers to some or all of the questions. If they have things that are very precious to them, they could include them in a display.

## Differentiation

Some children should only choose one of the questions to answer and will need support with their writing.

