

## A Teacher's Guide to Judaism

### Sukkot

**Sukkot** occurs five days after Yom Kippur in the Hebrew month of Tishrei which corresponds with September or October. It has significance both agriculturally and biblically as it is an autumn harvest festival. Traditionally on this festival Jewish people walked to the Temple in Jerusalem to make an offering. It is celebrated for eight days.

#### Meaning:

'Sukkah' means 'temporary booth' and Sukkot is the plural in Hebrew meaning 'temporary booths'.

#### Traditional activities:

- **Build a Sukkah and eat in it:** A sukkah is an outside, temporary dwelling, covered with branches for a roof
- **Take the four species (Arba Minim), make a blessing and shake gently. These comprise of a Lulav:** one palm, two myrtle branches, three willow branches bound together and an **Etrog** : a citron - lemon-like fruit
- **Eat fruit:** to represent the harvest

#### Torah reading:

Leviticus 23: giving instructions to stay in a Sukkah.

#### Biblical source:

Autumn festival:

"At the end of the year, when you gather in your produce from the fields" (Exodus 23:16).

The date:

"On the fifteen day of the seventh month, there shall be a Feast of Tabernacles to God for seven days" (Leviticus, 23:24) Hebrew calendar Tishrei - Sept or Oct

The sukkah:

"You shall dwell in booths for seven days...that your generations may know that I made the Children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt" Leviticus (23:42-43)

Lulav and etrog:

"On the first day, you shall take the fruit of a goodly tree [literally *etrog*], palm branches, myrtle boughs, and willows ....." Leviticus (23:40)



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These resources describe practices that are common in the UK, but there is a wide range of Jewish traditions and observance, and different Jewish people have different levels of observance. When interacting with Jewish pupils and their parents, teachers should be aware that it is always best to ask about their own preferences.

**Greeting:** Chag sameach – a happy holiday



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## DEFINITIONS AND GLOSSARY

**Yom Kippur** – Yom Kippur, also known as the Jewish Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish faith and is marked each year with a reflection of one's sins, fasting and prayer. It signals the end of the 10 days of repentance, which begins after Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.

**Temple** – According to the Hebrew Bible, the First Temple (place of worship), was the Holy Temple in ancient Jerusalem before its destruction by Nebuchadnezzar II after the Siege of Jerusalem of 587 BCE and its subsequent replacement with the Second Temple in 516 BCE.

### Sukkah



### Lulav and Etrog

**Lulav:** 1 palm, 2 myrtle branches, 3 willow branches bound together

**Etrog:** the Citron fruit (larger than a lemon)



**Torah** – the five book of Moses from the Jewish Hebrew Bible



**Jewish months (lunar calendar)**

Nisan (March-April)

Iyyar (April-May)

Sivan (May-June)

Tammuz (June-July)

Av (July-August)

Elul (August-September)

Tishrei (September-October)

Cheshvan (October-November)

Kislev (November-December)

Tevet (December-January)

Shevat (January-February)

Adar (February-March)



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