**The Hebrews and Judaism**

**Section 1**

**MAIN IDEAS**
1. Abraham and Moses each led their people to Canaan and to a new religion.
2. Strong kings united the Israelites to fight off invaders.
3. Invaders conquered and ruled the Israelites after their kingdom broke apart.
4. Some women in Israelite society made great contributions to their history.

**Key Terms and People**
- **Judaism** the religion of the Hebrews
- **Abraham** the biblical father of the Hebrew people
- **Moses** Hebrew leader who led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt
- **Exodus** the journey the Israelites made from Egypt to Canaan, led by Moses
- **Ten Commandments** moral code of laws that God handed down to Moses
- **David** former outlaw who became king after the death of Saul, Israel’s first king
- **Solomon** David’s son; became king of the Israelites
- **Diaspora** the dispersal of the Jews outside of Canaan

**Section Summary**
**ABRAHAM AND MOSES LEAD THEIR PEOPLE**

A people called the Hebrews (HEE-brooz) appeared in Southwest Asia sometime between 2000 and 1500 BC. Their writings describe the laws of their religion, Judaism (JOO-dee-i-zuhm). The Hebrew Bible, or Torah, traces the Hebrews back to a man named Abraham. The Hebrew Bible says that God told Abraham to leave his home. God promised to lead him to a new land and to make his children into a mighty nation. Abraham moved to Canaan (KAY-nuhn). The Hebrews lived there for many years.

Some of Abraham's descendents, the Israelites, later moved to Egypt. In time Egypt’s ruler, the pharaoh, made them slaves. In the 1200s BC, God then told a man named Moses to demand the Israelites' freedom. The pharaoh agreed only after a series of plagues struck Egypt.

Circle the name of the people who appeared in Southwest Asia sometime between 2000 and 1500 BC.

Underline the promise that God made to Abraham. Where did Abraham move?
Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt in a journey called the **Exodus**. The Bible says that during this journey, God gave Moses two stone tablets with laws written on them, known as the **Ten Commandments**. The Israelites were to worship only God and to value human life, self-control, and justice. The Israelites reached Canaan after 40 years.

**KINGS UNITE THE ISRAELITES**
A man named Saul fought the Philistines (FI-li-steenz) and became the first king of Israel. After Saul died a former outlaw named **David** became king. David was well-loved. He defeated the Philistines and other enemies. He captured the city of Jerusalem. It became Israel’s new capital. David’s son **Solomon** (SAHL-uh-muhn) became king next around 965 BC. Solomon was a strong king. He built a great temple in Jerusalem.

**INVADERS CONQUER AND RULE**
Soon after Solomon’s death in 930 BC, Israel split into two kingdoms, Israel and Judah (JOO-duh). The people of Judah were known as Jews. Over the centuries the Jewish people were often conquered and enslaved. The dispersal of the Jews outside of Canaan is known as the **Diaspora**. Jerusalem was conquered by the Greeks during the 330s BC. Judah regained independence for a time, but was conquered again in 63 BC, this time by the Romans.

**WOMEN IN ISRAELITE SOCIETY**
Men dominated Israelite society, but some Israelite and Jewish women made great contributions to the culture.

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**
**Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences** Write a set of ten commandments that reflects the responsibilities and rights of students and faculty for your school.

---

Why was Moses an important Israelite leader?
_______________________
_______________________
_______________________
_______________________

What three basic values are emphasized in the Ten Commandments?
_______________________
_______________________
_______________________

Circle the names of the first three kings of Israel. Which king built a temple to God?
_______________________
DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. After King Saul died, _______________________ became the new king of Israel. (David/Solomon)

2. _______________________ led the Israelites out of Egypt, which freed them from slavery under the pharaoh. (Moses/Naomi)

3. The _________________, a code of moral laws, has helped shape the development of Israelite and Jewish society over time. (Maccabees/Ten Commandments)

4. The Hebrews trace their ancestry back to a man named _______________________. (Abraham/Yohanan ben Zaccai)

5. Following the Babylonian Captivity, many Jews dispersed across the Persian Empire in what is known as the _________________. (Diaspora/Exodus)

DIRECTIONS Write three adjectives or descriptive phrases that describe the term or person.

6. Diaspora ________________________________

7. Exodus ________________________________

8. Judaism ________________________________

9. Solomon ________________________________

10. Ten Commandments ________________________________
3. uses shadows cast by the sun to tell the time

**Fill in the Blank**

4. Liu Bang
5. Han
6. seismograph
7. acupuncture
8. sundial

**Vocabulary Terms**

9. c
10. a

**SECTION 5**

**Summary**

(First Page) iron plow, wheelbarrow; possible answer—to prevent other cultures from learning how to make silk, which would lower its cost

(Second Page) Central Asia; It gave people hope in troubled times; Students should underline the sentence: *Then they used the ideas of Daoism to help describe Buddhist beliefs.*

**Challenge Activity**

Answers will vary. Student stories should explain why the secret of silk was so guarded and what penalties people faced for revealing the secret.

**Fill in the Blank**

1. wheelbarrow
2. Silk Road
3. Diffusion
4. silk
5. diffusion
6. Silk Road
7. silk

**True/False**

8. T
9. F; The Silk Road was a 4,000-mile-long network of routes that stretched westward from China to the Mediterranean Sea.

---

**The Hebrews and Judaism**

**SECTION 1**

**Summary**

(First Page) Students should circle: *Hebrews*; Students should underline: *God promised to lead him to a new land and to make his children into a mighty nation* and answer Canaan

(Second Page) because he led the Israelites out of Egypt; human life, self-control and justice; Students should circle *Saul, David, and Solomon* and answer Solomon

**Challenge Activity**

Student commandments will vary but should reflect reasonable ideas

**Fill in the Blank**

1. David
2. Moses
3. Ten Commandments
4. Abraham
5. Diaspora

**Descriptive Phrases**

Answers will vary. Sample answers:

6. the dispersal of the Jews
7. when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt
8. the religion of the Hebrews
9. Israelite, son, king
10. moral laws from God to Moses

**SECTION 2**

**Summary**

(First Page) Students should underline: *God, education, justice, obedience*; the belief in only one God

(Second Page) Students should circle: *Torah*; a collection of commentaries, folktales, and stories written by scholars

**Challenge Activity**

Students stories should include the idea of a modern-day Talmud and a Commandment.