Beliefs in Action

Trace connections among Jewish beliefs, practices, and sacred texts.

AWH.C.5.2 "Examine Judaism and its primary beliefs (e.g., monotheism, emphasis on ritual, individual worth and responsibility, adherence to moral obligations) and the role of the Hebrew sacred texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one Shabbat practice and one action that helps others. Circle a belief and a teaching from a Hebrew sacred text connected to each action, then write matching numbers beside the connected ideas.

From Sacred Text to Daily Choice

1. Before sunset on Friday, a Jewish family sets aside ordinary work to welcome Shabbat, the weekly day of rest. They light candles and share bread, while another Jewish family may observe the day in different ways. These practices are not separate from belief. Judaism teaches that there is one God, and many Jews understand Shabbat as a reminder of God's creation and the covenant, a lasting relationship between God and the Jewish people. Rituals can make these ideas part of daily life, although Jewish communities differ in how they observe them.

2. Inside a synagogue, a reader unrolls a Torah scroll. The Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, tells of creation, the Israelites' history, and laws that guide Jewish life. The Hebrew Bible, also called the Tanakh, includes the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings. Its texts are read, studied, and discussed, not only displayed. For example, the Torah's command to rest on the seventh day helps explain the weekly practice of Shabbat. Jewish interpretations differ, so the same passage may lead to different choices about how to observe a commandment.

3. After a service, volunteers organize a food collection for neighbors. Jewish teachings emphasize the worth of each person and the responsibility to act with justice and compassion. The Hebrew Bible calls for fair treatment of people in need, including strangers, so giving food can express a moral obligation rather than simply a kind feeling. This example does not mean all Jews practice alike, or that a single action sums up Judaism. It shows how sacred texts, beliefs about human worth, and choices in a community can be connected.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does observing Shabbat connect a ritual to a belief described in the passage?

2. How does the Torah help explain the weekly practice of Shabbat?

3. Why might two Jewish families observe Shabbat differently while both drawing on sacred texts?

4. How does the food collection connect a belief about people to a teaching in the Hebrew Bible?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a Jewish community planning a neighborhood welcome event. In one paragraph, propose two specific choices not mentioned in the passage, explain how each connects to a belief or practice and a teaching in the Hebrew Bible, and note that observance differs among Jews.

Beliefs in Action

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one Shabbat practice and one action that helps others. Circle a belief and a teaching from a Hebrew sacred text connected to each action, then write matching numbers beside the connected ideas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does observing Shabbat connect a ritual to a belief described in the passage?	**Resting on Shabbat can remind Jews of God's creation and the covenant between God and the Jewish people.**
2	How does the Torah help explain the weekly practice of Shabbat?	**The Torah commands rest on the seventh day, providing a sacred-text basis for observing Shabbat.**
3	Why might two Jewish families observe Shabbat differently while both drawing on sacred texts?	**Jewish interpretations of a commandment differ, so families may make different choices about how to observe it.**
4	How does the food collection connect a belief about people to a teaching in the Hebrew Bible?	**Helping neighbors reflects the worth of each person and the Hebrew Bible's call for fair treatment of people in need.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The organizers could schedule setup for Thursday so volunteers who observe Shabbat can rest from Friday evening through Saturday. That choice connects their practice of rest to the Torah's command to rest on the seventh day. They could also offer translation so newcomers can take part, reflecting each person's worth and the Hebrew Bible's call to treat strangers fairly. Other Jewish communities might make different choices about the event.

Accept accurate connections between a practice or action, a Jewish belief, and a teaching in the Hebrew Bible. Part 3 choices should be specific, distinct from those in the passage, and avoid suggesting that all Jews observe traditions alike.