

Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
covenant	a special agreement (with
deity	a supernatural and powerful being, who is sacred
Fire Temple	otherwise know as an Agiary - the place where Zoroastrians worship
Mitzvah	a Jewish celebration that signifies a boy or a girl is ready to become an adult
Monotheistic	someone or a religion that believes in and follows one God
Navjote	a ceremony in Zoroastrianism that welcomes a child in the religion
prosperity	being successful
Rabbi	a Jewish leader or teacher
Yasna	the Avestan name of Zoroastrianism's principal act of worship
Zoroastrian	someone who follows the

Responsibility

Religious Education

Our Focus

In this unit we will look at what it means to be “grown up” and what is meant by “responsibility”. We will also look at how becoming a “grown up” is marked in Judaism and Zoroastrianism. We will think about religious responsibilities.

The Big Question:

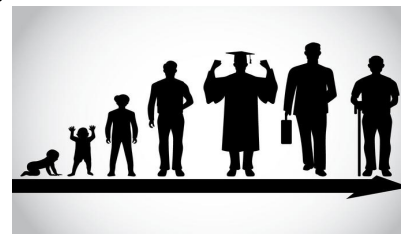
Religious Responsibility:
What does it mean to grow up?

Coming of Age

‘Coming of Age’ is the point where people believe we go from being a child to being and adult. This is an important “rite of passage” and different religions mark this important time in different ways.

When a Jewish boy turns 13 years old, he has a **Bar Mitzvah** (*Son of the Commandment*). When a Jewish girl turns 12 years old she has a **Bat Mitzvah** (*Daughter of the Commandment*). In this ceremony, the girl or boy promises to keep God's commandments.

A Zoroastrian is welcomed into the faith through a ceremony called **Navjote**. This is usually completed when a child is known to reach maturity, which is around the age of 7 – 14 years old.



History

Judaism began nearly 4,000 years ago in the Middle East. Across the world, there are about 15,000,000 followers of Judaism, who are known as ‘Jews’.

Jews believe that there is only one God. They believe they have a special agreement with God called a covenant.

Zoroastrianism is one of the world's oldest **monotheistic** religions. It was founded by the Prophet Zoroaster in ancient Iran approximately 3500 years ago.

For 1000 years Zoroastrianism was one of the most powerful religions in the world. It is now one of the world's smallest religions.

Judaism

Jews believe that after **Mitzvah** the ceremony, the child becomes an adult in God's eyes and they have a big party to celebrate.

For a boy's **Bar Mitzvah**, he is called up to read from the Torah for the very first time. He reads a special part from the Torah and, as he reads it, he sings it in a way that has taken a long time to learn.

Later, the boy may give a speech, relating to his Jewish life and future. At this point it is traditional to thank his parents.

Sometimes, after his Bar Mitzvah, a Jewish man will wear a cap called a kippah. This cap reminds him about God's commandments.



Special Ceremonies

Making Links



- Both Judaism and Zoroastrianism are **monotheistic** religions as each one believes in and follows just one god.

- Both Judaism and Zoroastrianism see the transition from childhood to adulthood as a time to come together as a community to celebrate.



Zoroastrianism

The **Navjote** ceremony takes place in front of Atar (fire). Before the ceremony starts, the child is bathed in sacred water to represent cleansing and purification. There are lots of symbolic foods which are placed around the room during this ceremony, including rice and flowers. Sacred clothing is worn by the child and this represents how their parents now have the responsibility of educating the child on their religion.

After the ceremony, a tray of mixed fruits and nuts are sprinkled on the child to symbolise prosperity.

Some Zoroastrians believe that if someone does not have a Navjote ceremony, they will follow a life that is not as pure as those that have.



Personal Connections

Your responsibilities

- What responsibilities do you currently have?
- Do you enjoy these responsibilities? Why or why not?
- What responsibilities might you have in the future?
- What does it mean to grow up?

To think about at home

Growing up and responsibility

- Think about how your family celebrate someone's transition from childhood to adulthood.
- Make a list of the responsibilities you have now and compare it to a list of the responsibilities one of your adults at home has.
- Design your own special ceremony to mark someone reaching adulthood.
- Find out about some of the important symbols included in the Mitzvah and Navjote ceremonies.