

Webquest: Rosh Hashanah

by Karen Kovacs

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. In this webquest, you will investigate this holiday and learn about Jewish culture. Below, there are activities on various aspects of Rosh Hashanah. Either individually or in groups, you will visit the websites and prepare a short presentation for your class. Feel free to illustrate your presentations. The questions will help to point you in the right direction, but you can go into more detail if you want to.

Activity 1

In order to understand when Rosh Hashanah is, we have to investigate the Jewish calendar. Visit the sites below, and answer the questions.

www.jewfaq.org/holidayg.htm

www.when-is.com/rosh-hashanah-2019.asp

1. Describe the Jewish calendar.
2. What is it based on?
3. When will Rosh Hashanah start this year?

Activity 2

Visit the sites below to find out the answers to the question.

www.jewfaq.org/holiday2.htm

reformjudaism.org/rosh-hashanah-customs

1. How is Rosh Hashanah celebrated?

Activity 3

One important aspect of Rosh Hashanah is the celebration of the Days of Awe. Use the following site to help you answer the questions.

www.jewfaq.org/holiday3.htm

1. What are the Days of Awe?
2. What happens during them?

Activity 4

Tashlikh is a very interesting custom. Visit the following sites to help you answer the question.

people.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Shokel/930915_Tashlikh.html

www.chabad.org/holidays/jewishnewyear/template_cdo/aid/564247/jewish/What-is-Tashlich.htm

1. What is Tashlikh?

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Activity 5

The shofar is a musical instrument, and it is an integral part of the celebration of Rosh Hashanah. Use the sites below to find the answers to the following questions.

www.jewfaq.org/holiday2.htm

www.holidays.net/highholydays/shofar.htm

www.akhlah.com/jewish-holidays/roshhashanah/rosh-hashanah-shofar

www.lifeinmessiah.org/resources/jewish-holidays/rosh-hashanah

1. What is a shofar?
2. What does it sound like?
3. Why is it so important?

Activity 6

Food is a very important part of Rosh Hashanah, and there are many Jewish customs related to food. Use the following website to help you fill in the table below.

www.akhlah.com/jewish-holidays/roshhashanah/rosh-hashanah-traditions

type of food	what the food symbolizes

Activity 7

Look at the following websites to find out about other traditions associated with the festival such as greetings, the sending of cards, candle-lighting and remembering the dead.

www.myjewishlearning.com/article/rosh-hashanah-customs/4

www.bjewusa.com/Hday_rosh_hashanah_laws.htm

www.shiva.com/learning-center/commemorate/jewish-holidays/rosh-hashanah