

Name: _____

Date: _____

Yom Kippur: The Day of Atonement

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the Jewish year. It usually happens in September or October, ten days after Rosh Hashanah. The words “Yom Kippur” mean “Day of Atonement” in Hebrew.

This holiday is a serious and thoughtful time. Jewish people use Yom Kippur to reflect on the past year, say sorry for mistakes, and make promises to do better in the year ahead. It is a day to ask for forgiveness from both other people and from God.

Many people spend Yom Kippur fasting. They do not eat or drink for about 25 hours as a way to focus on prayer and spiritual growth. Some Jewish people also avoid using technology, driving cars, or doing work so they can fully rest and spend time in prayer and reflection. Families often go to the synagogue (Jewish house of prayer) to hear special prayers and services. One of the last sounds heard at the end of Yom Kippur is the shofar, a ram’s horn that makes a loud, trumpet-like sound, signaling that the holiday is over.

Traditions include wearing white to symbolize being pure and starting fresh, and spending most of the day in prayer.

1. What does “Yom Kippur” mean in Hebrew? _____

2. Why do people wear white on Yom Kippur? _____

3. Where do many Jewish families go on Yom Kippur? _____

4. Yom Kippur is about saying sorry for mistakes and trying to do better. What is one thing you could do better in the year ahead? _____
