

## **THE SYNAGOGUE**

### **1. SYNAGOGUE BUILDINGS**

The building Jewish people use for community life and worship is a synagogue. It is a Greek word meaning 'meeting place'. The Hebrew word is Bet Haknesset. Sometimes it is referred to as Bet Hamidrash, which means 'house of study'. Jews often use the Yiddish word shul, which comes from the German word for 'school'.

**To find out how synagogues began:**

**READ** Six Religions pages 131 - 133

And then...

**WRITE** briefly about the beginning of the synagogue

**To find out about the buildings:**

**DRAW** a plan of an Orthodox synagogue

And then...

**READ** Judaism pages 111 - 112

And then...

**WRITE** about the features of the synagogue including the role of the Rabbi, Cantor and what a Minyan is.

### **EVALUATION/DISCUSSION**

'Should religious buildings be important in the lives of religious people.'

### **2: SYNAGOGUES AS MEETING PLACES**

Synagogues are meeting places for various activities in addition in worship.

**READ** Judaism pages 110 - 111

And then...

**WRITE** about the various activities the synagogue offers

### **EVALUATION/DISCUSSION**

Some Reform synagogues now have women rabbis. Discuss possible reasons why in Orthodox synagogues women still sit apart from the men. Do you think that men and women play different roles in religious life?