



# RE

## Justice and Freedom



What Is  
**Freedom?**



# Aim

- I can examine the concept of freedom.

# Success Criteria

- I can explain what freedom means to me.
- I can compare ideas about freedom from different religions.

# What Is Freedom?



## What Is Freedom?


# Dictionary Definitions

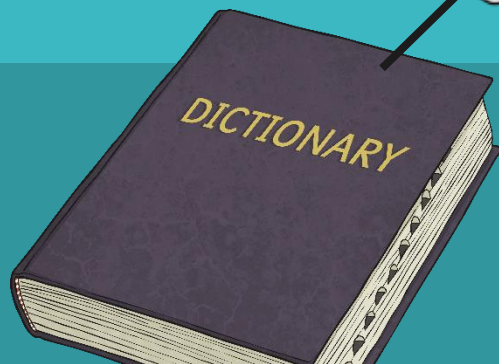
## **Freedom**

The power or right to speak or think as one wants.

The right to act in the way you think you should.

The state of not being imprisoned or enslaved.

Freedom from something undesirable.



# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

When Moses was born, the Hebrews were slaves in Egypt. Pharaoh was afraid of them because he thought they might take over his country. He ordered his soldiers to kill all the baby boys at birth so they would not grow up and fight him.



# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

To save Moses, his mother made a plan. She put him in a basket and set him adrift on the River Nile and left his fate to God's will.



# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

Moses floated down the river where the Pharaoh's daughter found him and rescued him. She brought him back to the palace and raised him as a son.





# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

Moses grew up in the palace as a royal prince. One day, he lost his temper and killed an Egyptian who had beaten a Hebrew slave to death. He had to flee to another land.



# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

He lived in the land of Midian and worked as a shepherd for forty years. One day, when he was in the desert, Moses heard the voice of God from a burning bush. God asked Moses to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land.



# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

Moses went back to Egypt and asked the Pharaoh to free his people. Pharaoh did not want to lose his slaves so he refused. God unleashed ten plagues on the Egyptians.



# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

It was the tenth plague that finally made the Pharaoh let them go. The eldest son in every family, including the Pharaoh's, died.

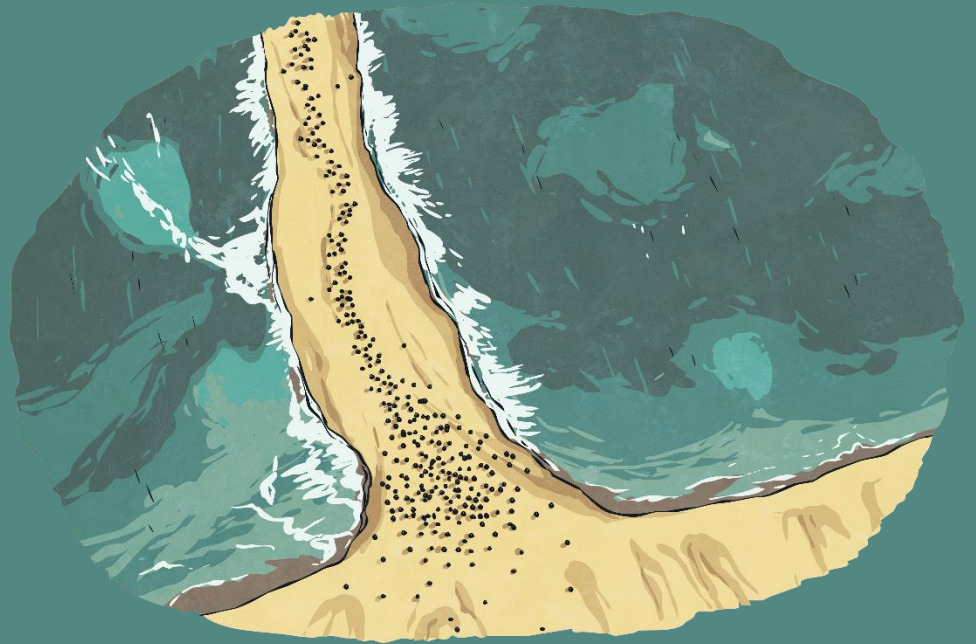
The Hebrews marked their doorposts with lamb's blood so that they would be safe. The Hebrews fled but soon after, the Pharaoh changed his mind and sent his army after them.



# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

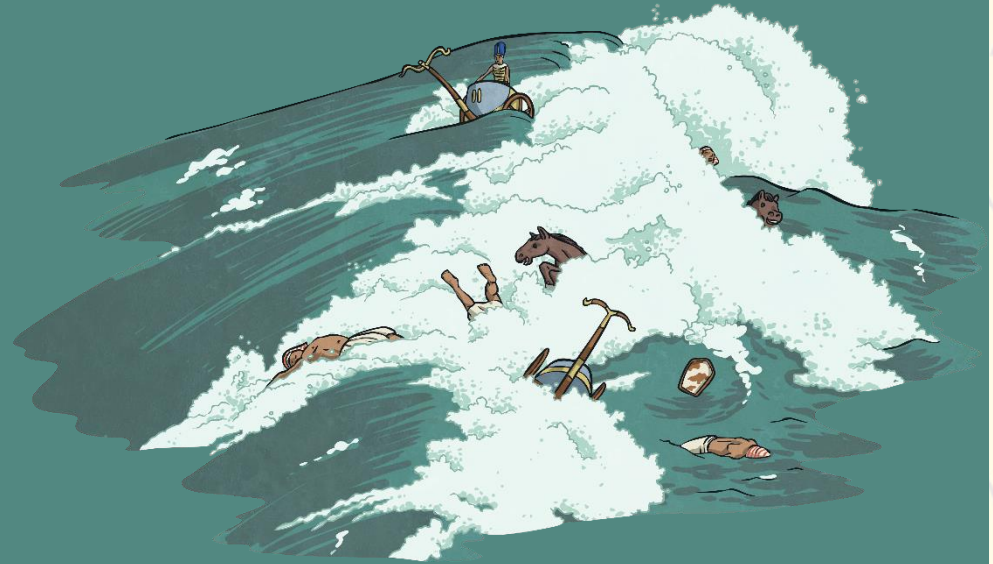
The army chased the Hebrews to the banks of the Red Sea, where they were trapped. God told Moses to lift up his rod and so he did. The waters parted to make a dry path.



# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

When all the Hebrews were safely at the other shore, Moses raised up his rod again and the water closed on the Pharaoh's army who had been chasing them. God saved the Hebrews.



# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

Even though the Hebrews were free, they were still in the desert. They wanted to find a land called Canaan which God had promised them.

The journey was very long and they soon ran out of food. They were hungry and blamed Moses for taking them out of Egypt. Moses told them that God would provide food.



# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

The next day, the ground was covered with a white food that tasted like honey. God also sent a flock of birds called quails, which they cooked and ate.

When their water ran out, God told Moses to strike a rock with his rod. As he did, water rushed out and they all had enough to drink.





# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

After three months of travelling, the Hebrews arrived at the foot of mount Sinai. God called Moses to meet him at the top of the mountain. As he climbed up, there was a thunderstorm.

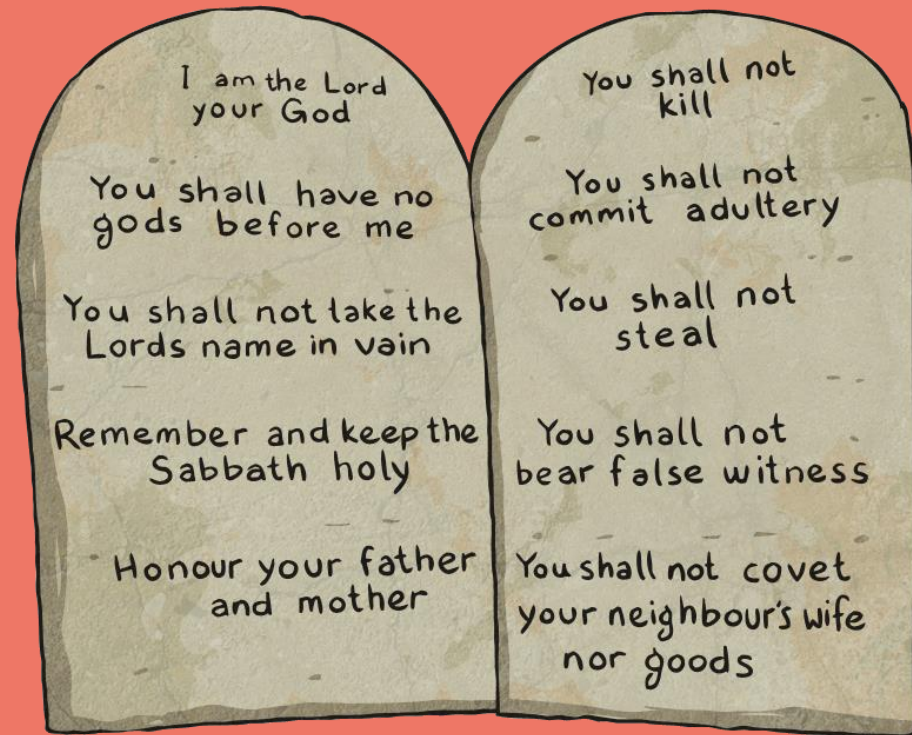


# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

At the top of the mountain, God gave Moses ten laws which told the people how to live.

These Ten Commandments were written on two stone tablets.



I am the Lord  
your God

You shall have no  
gods before me

You shall not take the  
Lords name in vain

Remember and keep the  
Sabbath holy

Honour your father  
and mother

You shall not  
kill

You shall not  
commit adultery

You shall not  
steal

You shall not  
bear false witness

You shall not covet  
your neighbour's wife  
nor goods

# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

Moses was gone for a very long time, and the people waiting at the foot of the mountain grew impatient.

They decided to make themselves another god to worship. It was a golden calf.

When Moses returned to find the people worshipping the calf he was very shocked. He broke the tablets God had given him and destroyed the calf. God forgave the people for worshipping the statue and told Moses to cut two more tablets of stone.



# Judaism and Freedom

## The Story of Moses

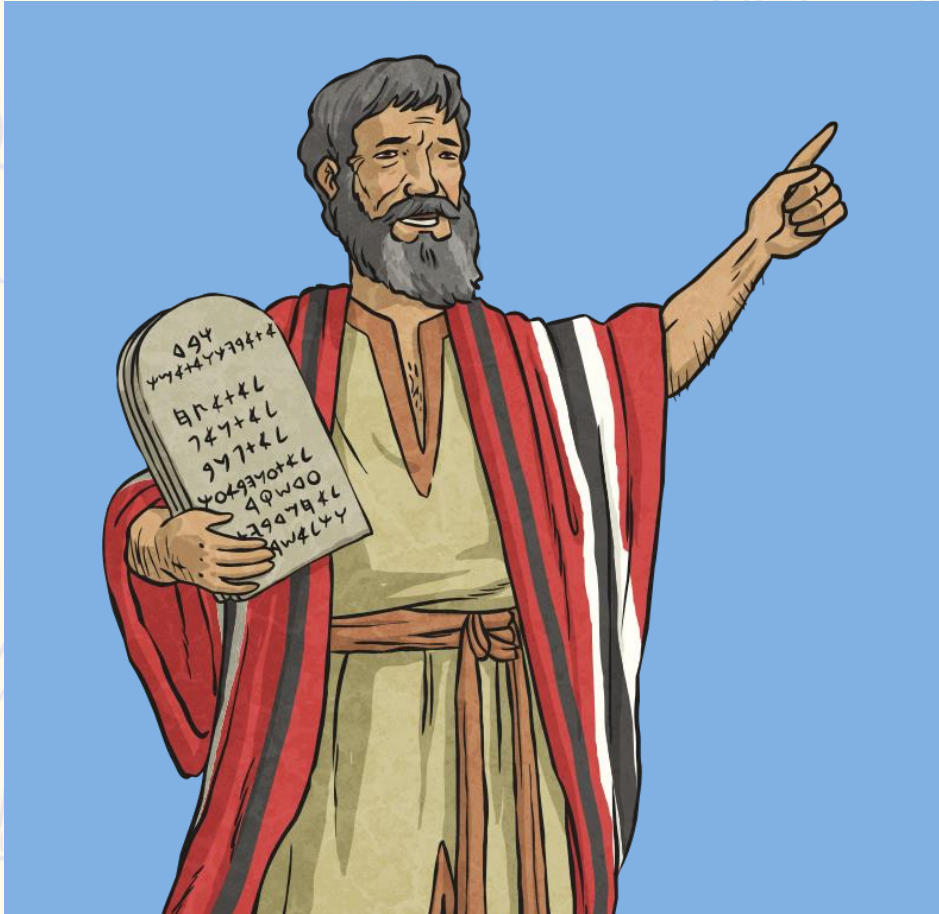
Moses took the stone tablets up the mountain and God gave him the Ten Commandments again. When he came down, all the people listened to Moses as he told them what God had said.

Moses promised God that the Hebrews would keep all of the commandments.



# Definition

(Jewish)



"Let my people go, so they may serve me."

Moses was not asking for the Jews to be freed so they could do what they liked.

They were to be freed so they could practise their religion freely.

In this way, freedom is not simply the freedom to do things but also the freedom to not do things that they consider to be morally wrong.

# Definition

(Buddhist)

“Just as in the great ocean there is but one taste - the taste of salt - so in this doctrine and discipline there is but one taste - the taste of freedom.”



Buddhists believe that the most important freedom is freedom from suffering. Dharma is the discipline of practising freedom from suffering which can be found by following the eightfold path:

- Right View
- Right Thought
- Right Speech
- Right Action
- Right Livelihood
- Right Effort
- Right Mindfulness
- Right Contemplation

Buddhists believe that following the eightfold path will result in freedom.

# Definition

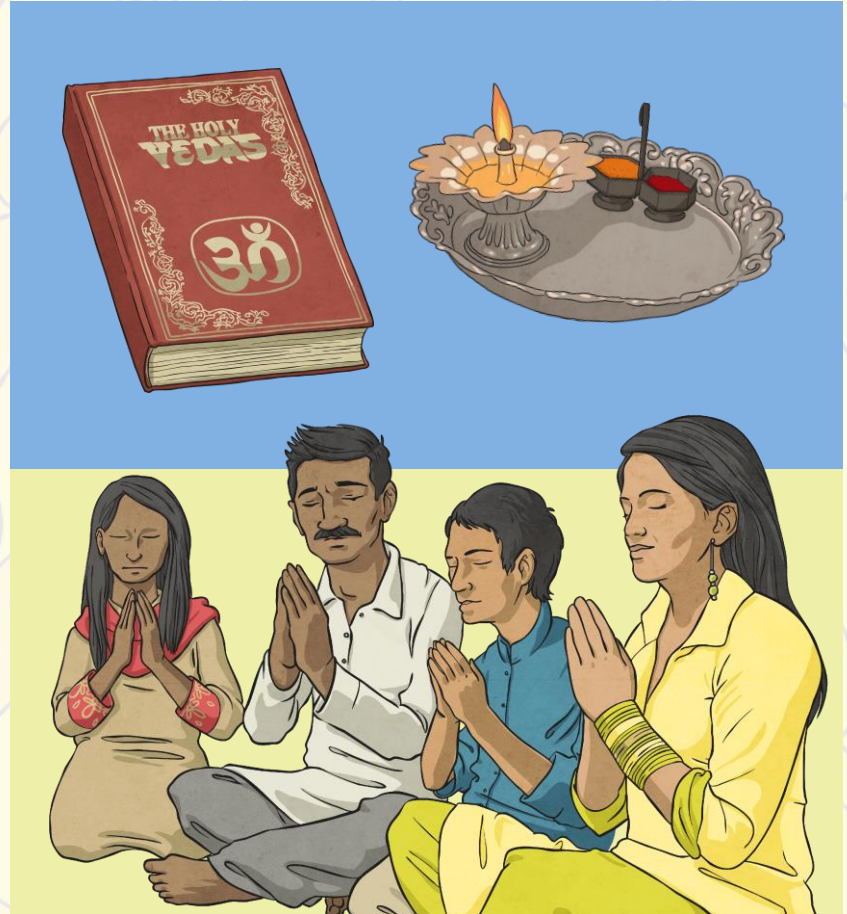
(Hindu)

Hindus believe that we should have no restraints on freedom of reason, thought, feeling and will.

However, this needs to be grounded in Hindu ideas of the goals of human life including moksha - freedom from the cycle of birth and rebirth (samsara), so that a person can just be one with God forever.

Moksha can be achieved through knowledge, meditation, worship and good deeds.

Is this absolute freedom? What does freedom mean here?



# Definition

(Christian)



“Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.” **1 Peter 2:16**

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

**John 8:32**



“For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

**Nelson Mandela**

“In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline.”

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**





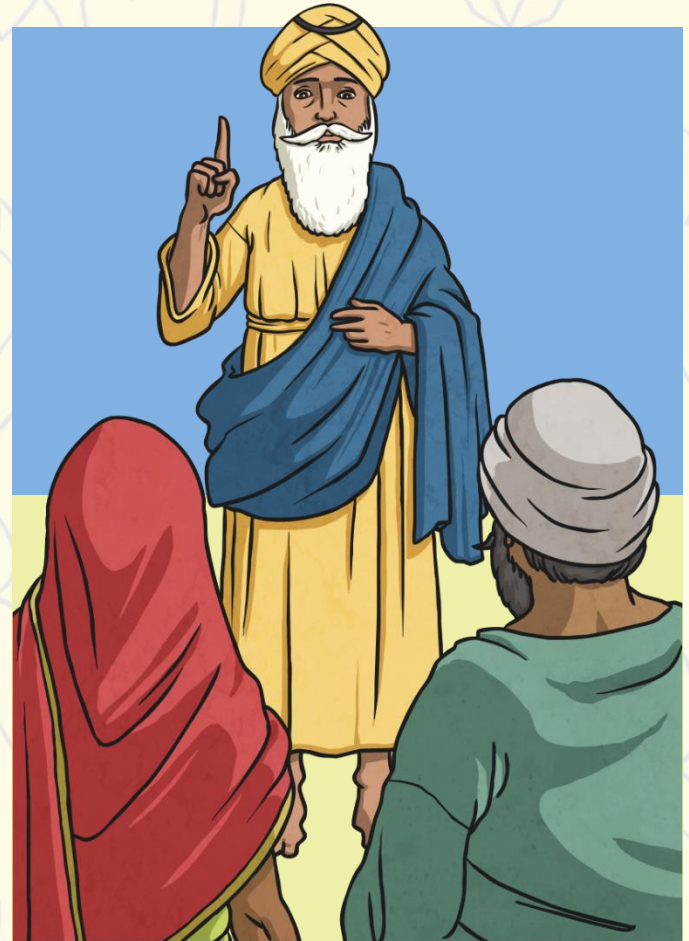
# Definition

(Sikh)

The Sikh Gurus believed that people should have complete freedom to choose their beliefs.

They also believe that people gain freedom by doing the right thing and avoiding doing the wrong thing.

In this way freedom is not doing whatever you want but the freedom for all to live their lives in a happy, healthy, moral and spiritual way.



# Definition

(Muslim)



The word Islam means  
“submission to God.”

Muslims believe that God has given them free will (the ability to think) to make good choices.

“No one’s freedom should violate the freedom of others.”



# What Kind of Freedom?



## What Kind of Freedom?

Read the **Beliefs about Freedom** sheet and sort them into the dictionary definition of the word freedom.

Definitions	Beliefs	Example
The power or right to speak or think as one wants.		
The right to act in the way you think you should.		
The state of not being imprisoned or enslaved.	"Let my people go, so they may serve me" (Judaism, the story of Moses)	Freedom from being owned and to practise your religion.
Freedom from something undesirable.		

# Freedom



Definitions	Examples
The power or right to speak or think as one wants.	
The right to act in the way you think you should.	
The state of not being imprisoned or enslaved.	
Freedom from something undesirable.	

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