A. Following Chronological Order  As you read this section, take notes to answer the questions about the time line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000 B.C.</td>
<td>God commands Abraham to take his people to Canaan.</td>
<td>1. What sacred writings describe the early history of the Hebrews?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1650 B.C.</td>
<td>Descendants of Abraham move to Egypt.</td>
<td>2. How were the Hebrews treated in Egypt?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1300-1200 B.C.</td>
<td>Hebrews begin their “exodus” from Egypt.</td>
<td>3. Why is Moses an important figure in Jewish history?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1020 B.C.</td>
<td>Hebrews unite and form the kingdom of Israel.</td>
<td>4. What were the achievements of Saul and David?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>962 B.C.</td>
<td>King David is succeeded by his son Solomon.</td>
<td>5. Why did King Solomon build a great temple in Jerusalem?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>922 B.C.</td>
<td>Kingdom splits into two, Israel and Judah.</td>
<td>6. What were the reasons for the division?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722 B.C.</td>
<td>Assyrians conquer Israel.</td>
<td>7. Who was Nebuchadnezzar?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>586 B.C.</td>
<td>Chaldeans attack Jerusalem and destroy Solomon’s Temple.</td>
<td>8. What ruler allowed the Hebrews to return to Jerusalem?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>515 B.C.</td>
<td>Second Temple is completed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Writing for a Specific Purpose  On the back of this paper, explain the significance of Palestine, the covenant, and monotheism to Judaism and the Hebrew people.
In the thousand-year period that followed the decline of the Sumerians around 2000 B.C., several important civilizations sprouted in the region of the eastern Mediterranean Sea. Some did not survive the period, but most had a lasting impact. The map below shows the area of greatest land occupation of five of these civilizations during the second century B.C. Hittites flourished from about 2000 B.C. to 1190 B.C. Minoans ruled Mediterranean trade from about 2000 B.C. to 1400 B.C. Phoenicians emerged as the Mediterranean’s strongest trading civilization around 1100 B.C. and ruled the sea until 842 B.C. Philistines came to the region in the 1200s B.C. and clashed with the Hebrews until being vanquished around 1000 B.C. Hebrews fled Egypt and returned to the eastern Mediterranean around 1200 B.C. They expanded north and south and united into a powerful kingdom around 1020 B.C.
Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. What are the five eastern Mediterranean civilizations covered on the map?

____________________________________________________________________________

2. Which eastern Mediterranean civilization ruled the largest territory during the millennium of 2000 B.C. to 1000 B.C.?

Describe the extent of that territory.

____________________________________________________________________________

3. What major city-states are shown on the map?

____________________________________________________________________________

4. What unique situation made the Minoans dominant in Mediterranean trade from about 2000 B.C. to 1400 B.C.?

____________________________________________________________________________

5. Who succeeded the Minoans as the most powerful Mediterranean trader?

____________________________________________________________________________

Look at the map. Why is it no surprise that this civilization eventually came to dominate the Mediterranean?

____________________________________________________________________________

6. Which eastern Mediterranean civilizations do you think caused the Hebrews the most problems?
PRIMARY SOURCE

The Ten Commandments
from The New English Bible

According to the Bible, God revealed the Ten Commandments to the Hebrew leader Moses at Mount Sinai. These commandments, which have been preserved in the Old Testament in Exodus 20: 1–17 and Deuteronomy 5: 6–21, established a code of ethical conduct that became the basis for the civil and religious laws of Judaism. How should people behave responsibly, according to the Ten Commandments?

Section 4

The Lord came down upon the top of Mount Sinai and summoned Moses to the mountain-top, and Moses went up. The Lord said to Moses, “Go down; warn the people solemnly that they must not force their way through to the Lord to see him, or many of them will perish. Even the priests, who have access to the Lord, must hallow themselves, for fear that the Lord may break out against them.” Moses answered the Lord, “The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because thou thyself didst solemnly warn us to set a barrier to the mountain and so to keep it holy.” The Lord therefore said to him, “Go down; then come up and bring Aaron with you, but let neither priests nor people force their way up to the Lord, for fear that he may break out against them.” So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

God spoke, and these were his words:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.
You shall have no other god to set against me.
You shall not make a carved image for yourself nor the likeness of anything in the heavens above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth.
You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous god. I punish the children for the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. But I keep faith with thousands, with those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrong use of the name of the Lord your God; the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who misuses his name.

Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy. You have six days to labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath of the Lord your God; that day you shall not do any work, you, your son or your daughter, your slave or your slave-girl, your cattle or the alien within your gates; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and on the seventh day he rested. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and declared it holy.

Honour your father and your mother, that you may live long in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.
You shall not commit murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false evidence against your neighbour.
You shall not covet your neighbour’s house; you shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, his slave, his slave-girl, his ox, his [donkey], or anything that belongs to him.

When all the people saw how it thundered and the lightning flashed, when they heard the trumpet sound and saw the mountain smoking, they trembled and stood at a distance. “Speak to us yourself,” they said to Moses, “and we will listen; but if God speaks to us we shall die.” Moses answered, “Do not be afraid. God has come only to test you, so that the fear of him may remain with you and keep you from sin.”


Discussion Questions

Determining Main Ideas
1. According to these laws, how should the Hebrew people act toward the Lord?
2. How should the Hebrews act toward others?
3. Comparing and Contrasting How do the religious teachings represented in the Ten Commandments differ from the religious beliefs reflected by the hymns you read from the Rig Veda?
1. The ancient civilizations of Egypt and Sumer worshiped many gods. How do their polytheistic beliefs compare with those of ancient

Hinduism?

Buddhism?

Judaism?

2. Sumerians worshiped their gods from the Ziggurat, the largest building in the city. Ancient Egyptians built temples to worship their gods and pyramids as homes for their god-kings. How did the ancient Hebrews maintain their religion as they traveled from place to place?

________________________________________________________________________________________

3. In Sumer the king was a representative of the gods. In Egypt the king was worshiped as a god. What role did the kings play in religion in ancient Israel?

________________________________________________________________________________________

4. Sumerians made offerings of animals, grain, fabric, and jewels in order to please their gods. What did ancient Hebrews need to do to please their God?

________________________________________________________________________________________

5. Sumerians saw the afterlife as a dismal, joyless place. Ancient Egyptians anticipated a pleasant life after they died. What vision of life after death did Hinduism and Buddhism share?

________________________________________________________________________________________
RETEACHING ACTIVITY  The Origins of Judaism

Drawing Conclusions
Complete the chart below by indicating the significance of each person, place, or object to the development of Judaism.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSON, PLACE, OR EVENT</th>
<th>SIGNIFICANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canaan</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrews</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torah</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moses</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten Commandments</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Determining Main Ideas
Write your answers in the blanks provided.

6. Considered the father of the Hebrew people: ________________________________________

7. The belief in a single god: ______________________________________________________

8. The god of the Hebrew people: __________________________________________________

9. A group of people who threatened the Hebrews’ position in ancient Palestine: _________

10. Name for the new Hebrew kingdom united under Saul, David, and Solomon: __________

11. Money paid by a weaker power to a stronger power in order to keep the peace: _________

12. First religion to teach monotheism: _____________________________________________