

Simhat Torah

When the Feast of Booths (Sukkot) finishes, you celebrate Simhat Torah which means 'Rejoicing of the Torah'. On this joyous holiday, the last chapter of the Torah is read. Then the end of the scroll has been reached. But as soon as this happens, reading is immediately resumed - from the very beginning of the first chapter. So reading the Torah never ends! And even when you read the same words every year, you never have the feeling it's exactly the same. You've grown with each year - become older and wiser - so you see the texts in a different light and therefore understand them in a different way. Jews consider the Torah a gift. You received the Torah and it helps you to lead a life of value. Even though it can be difficult to observe the Torah's rules, it is also fine to have rules (guidelines) to follow and beautiful customs to practice.

How is Simhat Torah celebrated?

On the evening this holiday begins, all the Torah scrolls in the synagogue are removed from the Torah cupboard. They are carried through the synagogue accompanied by dancing and singing. And if it's possible, the scrolls are sometimes taken outside and danced with in the street.

The next morning, two people are presented with a special task: one person finishes reading the Torah and the other starts again with the first chapter: 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.' After this, candy and sweets are handed out. Everybody is in high spirits; delighting in the Torah.



My notes:



Working on a school project about Simhat Torah? Show the film [Torah](#).