

OUR SINGAPORE:

ONE PEOPLE, MANY CULTURES.

A Jewish Kosher shop

A box of matzo, which is a cracker-like flatbread used in place of bread during the Jewish holiday of Passover. During Passover, Jews do not eat bread that has risen. This is to remember how their ancestors had to escape from Egypt so quickly that they had no time to wait for their bread dough to rise. This was more than 3,000 years ago, when they were in captivity in Egypt. They were led to freedom by Moses. Jews have a long history of enduring persecution. They try to remember this history – even in what they eat.

The "Star of David" is a popular Jewish symbol made up of two triangles to form a six-pointed star. It is supposed to represent the shield of King David, who united the people of Israel, the holy land of the Jews.

This candleholder is called a menorah. A nine-branched menorah is used at home to celebrate the festival of Hanukkah, which remembers a miracle in Jewish history. Seven-branched menorahs are lit in Jewish temples, which are also called synagogues. Menorahs date back to the ancient Holy Temple in Jerusalem almost 3,000 years ago. Today, its unique shape is a symbol of the religion.

The kippah is traditionally worn by a Jewish man to show that he recognises that God is above mankind, and also to identify him as a Jew.

This freezer contains "kosher" meat – meat that's in line with Jewish laws. For example, pork and camel meat are not kosher. Other meat, such as chicken and beef, must be from animals that have been slaughtered by someone trained to do so, following strict rituals. Otherwise, it's not kosher. This is similar to how Muslims only eat "halal" meat.

Picture and research: JUSTIN ZHUANG

This series by WHAT'S UP, Singapore's newspaper for students, takes a closer look at our country's many colourful cultures. Also online at [▶▶http://www.whatsup.sg](http://www.whatsup.sg).

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