

## What is a Sefer Torah and how is it used?

The Torah is made up of the first five books of the Bible-

Genesis (Be-reshit)

Exodus (Shemot)

Leviticus (Va-yikra)

Numbers (Be-midbar)

Deuteronomy (Devarim)

*If you have a Bible at home, you could have a look at these books and see if you recognise any of the stories.*

For most Christians, the whole of the Bible is their holy book, but for Jews the Torah is the holy book. The five books of the Torah and the first five books of the Christian Old Testament are the same, so it is for this reason that Jews and Christians share many stories. The New Testament of the Christian Bible is not part of Jewish tradition.



The Sefer Torah are the Torah Scrolls

Watch - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z834wmn>

Many Jews believe the words in the Torah are the word of God; that Moses received the Torah from God when he was on Mount Sinai.

Last week, we learned how reverently sacred words are treated. It is the same with the Torah scrolls.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z834wmn>

As you watch the above video, note how the words in the Torah are being treated

- being carried
- bells so everyone can hear it coming
- touched with prayer shawls which are then kissed
- velvet mantle for protection and beautification that often has meaningful symbols on it
- crown on top
- not touching the text with their hands but using a yad

Why do you think it is treated in this way?

Is there anything that you know of that is treated with care?

What benefits are there for people to have something so precious in their lives?

**Task** - explain how the Torah is treated and why