



**Vocabulary:**

The following is a list of vocabulary terms frequently used during tours of our Judaic gallery. It may be helpful to introduce them to your students before their visit and to reinforce the terms they have learned after the tour.

**Judaica** is the historical and literary materials relating to Judaism.

**Judaic** is relating to or characteristic of the Jewish people or their culture or religion.

**Israel** is a country in Western Asia located on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. It is the world's only predominantly Jewish state.

**Jerusalem** has been the holiest city in Judaism and the spiritual center of the Jewish people since the 10th century BCE.

**Safed** is an old city in Israel and the center for Kabbalah, or Jewish mysticism.

A **Synagogue** is a Jewish house of worship.

The **Torah** is the most holy of the sacred writings in Judaism. It includes the whole body of Jewish law and teachings. Torahs are always hand-written, in Hebrew calligraphy.

An **Ark**, also known in Hebrew as an *Aron Kodesh*, is an ornamental closet which contains each synagogue's Torah scrolls.

A **Biblical story** is a story relating to, or being in accord with the Bible.

**Shabbat** or the Sabbath is the seventh day of the Jewish week and a day of rest in Judaism. Shabbat is observed from sundown Friday until sundown on Saturday night. On Shabbat, you spend time with family, pray, read and rejuvenate.

A **Kiddush Cup** is an artistically adorned cup used to hold wine as the Kiddush (a blessing) is being recited over wine or grape juice to sanctify the Shabbat or a Jewish holiday.

**Tzedakah** is charity or the giving of charity.

**Havdalah** is a Jewish religious ceremony that marks the symbolic end of Shabbat and holidays, and ushers in the new week.

The **High Holidays** or **High Holy Days**, also known as the *Yamim Noraim*, which in Hebrew means "Days of Awe". The High Holidays include the holidays Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

**Passover Seder Plate** is a special plate containing symbolic foods during the Passover Seder. Each of the six items arranged on the plate has special significance to the retelling of the story of the exodus from Egypt, which is the focus of this ritual meal.

The **Haggadah** is a Jewish religious text that sets out the order of the Passover Seder. Haggadah, meaning "telling," is a fulfillment of the scriptural commandment to each Jew to "tell" about the Jewish liberation from slavery in Egypt, as described in the book of Exodus in the Torah.

**Purim** is one of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar. It commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination. The story of Purim is told in the Biblical book of Esther.

The **Megillah** is the scroll of parchment that contains the biblical story of Esther; traditionally read in synagogues to celebrate the holiday of Purim.

A **menorah** is a specialized candle-holder used by the Jewish people. Two varieties exist: one with seven branches and one with nine branches. The nine-branched variety is used only in relation to the Hanukkah celebration, and is often referred to as a *hanukiah*.

**Throne of Elijah** is a special chair used at a *Brit* ceremony. It is named after Elijah the prophet, whose soul was called upon to watch over and protect the new born infant.

**Moranos**, *Conversos*, or "New Christians" are terms used to describe a group of Jews who were by name only Catholic, while practicing Judaism in secret during the Spanish Inquisition.

**Diaspora** is a dispersion of people from their original homeland.

The **Holocaust** was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

A **Concentration camp** is a prison camp where the Nazis sent people considered by them to be dangerous. Although these camps were officially considered labor camps, the people in them were not expected to survive. Prisoners were worked or starved to death.

**Art History terms:**

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**Maquette** is a small model or study in three dimensions for either a sculptural or an architectural project.

A **relief** is a sculptured artwork where a modeled form is raised.

A **lithograph** is an authorized copy of an original work created by the artist himself or other skilled craftsmen.

**Parchment** is a thin material made from calfskin, sheepskin or goatskin. Its most common use is as the pages of a book or scroll.