

Shavuot True or False

(Questions Only)

1. *Shavuot* means “weeks” in Hebrew.

Answer: _____

2. In the original Shavuot story, the Jewish people have recently escaped from Egypt.

Answer: _____

3. The holiday that honors the Jews’ escape from Egypt is Passover.

Answer: _____

4. The Egyptian soldiers who followed the Jews as they fled turned around and walked home when they could not cross the Red Sea.

Answer: _____

5. Shavuot takes place just before Passover.

Answer: _____

6. Moses directs the Jews to stop at Mt. Sinai.

Answer: _____

7. God tells Moses to stop at Mt. Sinai so the Jewish people can have time to rest and eat cheese blintzes.

Answer: _____

8. The Jews were given seven days to prepare for God’s arrival on Mt. Sinai.

Answer: _____

9. Some Jews stay awake and read the Torah all night during Shavuot.

Answer: _____

10. This tradition of staying up all night to read the Torah is to honor the Jews at Mt. Sinai who were up all night waiting to hear the word of God.

Answer: _____

11. All Jewish people are said to have been at Mt. Sinai when God spoke to them, including those who had not yet been born.

Answer: _____

12. Since all Jewish people, even those alive today, are said to have been present in spirit at Mt. Sinai, they all remember the event.

Answer: _____

13. The Jewish people at Mt. Sinai never doubted the existence of God again after hearing the voice of God.

Answer: _____

14. The Book of Ruth is often read during Shavuot because Ruth was one of the Jews who followed Moses out of Egypt.

Answer: _____

15. Biblical scholars and historians are unsure of the exact location of Mt. Sinai.

Answer: _____

16. Shavuot is a harvest festival as well as a holiday honoring the events at Mt. Sinai.

Answer: _____

17. It is customary to decorate for Shavuot with bowls of fake fruit and fruit-scented candles.

Answer: _____

18. Fresh flowers aren't as popular as paper flowers during Shavuot because Jewish people believe that flowers should be left in nature where they are growing.

Answer: _____

19. Moses broke the first two tablets God left for him on Mt. Sinai.

Answer: _____

20. The stone tablets given to Moses were placed in an ark and now are kept in a museum in Israel.

Answer: _____

21. The movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark* is about the ark and tablets given to Moses.

Answer: _____

22. Moses was chosen by God to lead the Jews out of Israel and hear the Ten Commandments because he was a natural and strong leader.

Answer: _____

23. In most synagogues, the Ten Commandments are sung rather than spoken during services.

Answer: _____

24. Working is allowed on Shavuot.

Answer: _____

25. Cheesecake is often eaten in honor of Shavuot.

Answer: _____

Shavuot True or False

(Questions with Answers)

1. *Shavuot* means “weeks” in Hebrew.

Answer: True

2. In the original Shavuot story, the Jewish people have recently escaped from Egypt.

Answer: True. The Jewish people in the Shavuot story fled from Egypt to escape enslavement.

3. The holiday that honors the Jews’ escape from Egypt is Passover.

Answer: True. The Jews flee Egypt in the Passover story.

4. The Egyptian soldiers who followed the Jews as they fled turned around and walked home when they could not cross the Red Sea.

Answer: False. The Red Sea parted so the Jews could pass but drowned the Egyptian soldiers.

5. Shavuot takes place just before Passover.

Answer: False. Shavuot takes place approximately seven weeks after Passover. After leaving Egypt, the Jews walk until they reach Mt. Sinai, and then the Shavuot story begins.

6. Moses directs the Jews to stop at Mt. Sinai.

Answer: True. Moses, who has been leading the Jews as they walk away from Egypt, gets a message from God telling him the huge party should stop at Mt. Sinai.

7. God tells Moses to stop at Mt. Sinai so the Jewish people can have time to rest and eat cheese blintzes.

Answer: False. While dairy products are now traditionally enjoyed on Shavuot, God originally wanted the Jews to stop at Mt. Sinai to hear a message.

8. The Jews were given seven days to prepare for God’s arrival on Mt. Sinai.

Answer: False. The Jews were given three days at Mt. Sinai to prepare for the arrival of God.

9. Some Jews stay awake and read the Torah all night during Shavuot.
Answer: True. There is a newer tradition of reading the Torah all night before Shavuot services.
10. This tradition of staying up all night to read the Torah is to honor the Jews at Mt. Sinai who were up all night waiting to hear the word of God.
Answer: False. The Jews are said to have slept late at Mt. Sinai the morning they were to hear God.
11. All Jewish people are said to have been at Mt. Sinai when God spoke to them, including those who had not yet been born.
Answer: True. It is said that all Jewish people from the past, present, and future were present at Mt. Sinai to hear God. The events at Mt. Sinai are considered both concrete and also quite mystical and mysterious.
12. Since all Jewish people, even those alive today, are said to have been present in spirit at Mt. Sinai, they all remember the event.
Answer: False. Jewish people may feel a spiritual connection to the events at Mt. Sinai, but very few claim to actually remember being present there in ancient times.
13. The Jewish people at Mt. Sinai never doubted the existence of God again after hearing the voice of God.
Answer: False. Some Jewish people continued to struggle with their faith even after the events at Mt. Sinai. It is said that being in the presence of God was so overwhelming that it was difficult to return to everyday life afterward.
14. The Book of Ruth is often read during Shavuot because Ruth was one of the Jews who followed Moses out of Egypt.
Answer: False. Ruth was not alive at the same time as Moses. She is a woman who converted to Judaism. The faith she displayed in her conversion is considered similar to the faith the Jews displayed when accepting the Torah at Mt. Sinai.
15. Biblical scholars and historians are unsure of the exact location of Mt. Sinai.
Answer: True. No text tells the exact location of Mt. Sinai, and scholars have not been able to prove definitively its location.

16. Shavuot is a harvest festival as well as a holiday honoring the events at Mt. Sinai.

Answer: True. Because Shavuot takes place during the time wheat, barley, fruits, and vegetables are harvested in Israel, Shavuot is also a time to celebrate the bounty of the season.

17. It is customary to decorate for Shavuot with bowls of fake fruit and fruit-scented candles.

Answer: False. Greenery and flowers, particularly made from paper, are traditional Shavuot decorations.

18. Fresh flowers aren't as popular as paper flowers during Shavuot because Jewish people believe that flowers should be left in nature where they are growing.

Answer: False. It is thought that paper leaves and flowers were first used as Shavuot decorations because they differentiated Jewish places of worship from Christian, which often were adorned with fresh flowers.

19. Moses broke the first two tablets God left for him on Mt. Sinai.

Answer: True. Moses went back to receive new stone tablets after breaking the first two God gave him.

20. The stone tablets given to Moses were placed in an ark and now are kept in a museum in Israel.

Answer: False. The whereabouts of the ark and tablets are unknown. Several countries have claimed to be in possession of the ark and tablets, but there is no verification that this is true.

21. The movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark* is about the ark and tablets given to Moses.

Answer: True. *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, starring Harrison Ford, is about an adventurer's attempt to recover the ark and tablets originally given to Moses.

22. Moses was chosen by God to lead the Jews out of Israel and hear the Ten Commandments because he was a natural and strong leader.

Answer: False. According to the Bible, Moses was very humble, and that is why God chose to speak to and through him.

23. In most synagogues, the Ten Commandments are sung rather than spoken during services.

Answer: True. It is traditional to sing the Ten Commandments in a special, high-toned vocal pitch.

24. Working is allowed on Shavuot.

Answer: False. Although some Jewish people do work on Shavuot, officially it is a holiday where work is supposed to cease.

25. Cheesecake is often eaten in honor of Shavuot.

Answer: True. Eating dairy products on Shavuot is encouraged, and cheesecake is a favorite Shavuot treat.
