

## Simple Explanation of Torah for 4th grade

In preparation to begin learning to read the **Before Torah Blessing** here is some important, basic information about the Torah.

According to Jewish tradition, the Torah is the word of God which was dictated to Moses. Moses wrote down the words for the Jewish people. Because of this, the Torah is very holy and important to the Jewish religion.

The Torah is the foundation of Judaism. It is the most basic and important of all Jewish texts. All other Jewish texts are based on the Torah and its values.

The word "Torah" means "teaching"- It is called this because it is what God taught to the Jewish people. The Torah is made up of 5 different books. These 5 books are found at the beginning of the Bible.

1. **Genesis** - Tells the story of creation of the world and its early history, then focuses on the family of Abraham and its history.
2. **Exodus**- Tells the story of the Jews going out from slavery in ancient Egypt and their subsequent wandering in the desert on the way to the promised Land (Israel).
3. **Leviticus**- This book primarily deals with the many religious rules and regulations.
4. **Numbers**- Continues the story of the Jewish people wandering in the desert On their way to the promised land (Israel).
5. **Deuteronomy**- A long speech given by Moses to the Jewish people shortly Before his death and reminding them of their history and God's law. The book Ends with the death of Moses shortly before the Jewish people entered the Promised land (Israel).

Together these 5 books are called the Books of Moses

**Aliya**= The honor of "going up" to read the Before and After Torah Blessings.