

Rosh Hashana

in 15 Facts

- 1.** Say it: ROHSH hah-shah-NAH.
- 2.** It's the Jewish New Year—a time to start fresh.
- 3.** It usually happens in September or October (the date changes each year).
- 4.** It begins at sundown, because Jewish days start in the evening.
- 5.** Many communities celebrate for two days.
- 6.** A shofar (ram's horn) is blown with loud notes to wake us up to do good.
- 7.** Families dip apples in honey to wish for a sweet new year.
- 8.** People bake round challah (sometimes with raisins) to show the circle of the year.
- 9.** Friends say “Shanah Tovah!” (sha-NAH toh-VAH) which means “Good year!”
- 10.** Some do Tashlich: tossing crumbs into a river or lake to “throw away” mistakes.
- 11.** It begins the Ten Days of Awe, a time to think, say sorry, and make things right.
- 12.** Homes are bright with holiday candles and festive meals.
- 13.** People enjoy a “new fruit” (like pomegranate) and hope for lots of good deeds.
- 14.** Special foods have meanings—like carrots, dates, or fish head to wish for growth and good luck.
- 15.** Many send cards or messages to share good wishes for the year.