

1st Grade Curriculum

Overview

The first grade curriculum will begin to build strong Hebrew reading skills by familiarizing students with select letters of the Alef Bet. Students will also learn about Jewish culture, Holidays and values.

- Total number of sessions: 25

Note to teacher: Some units have fewer planned sessions in order to work around potential snow days and give greater flexibility for special classroom projects etc. You may need to extend a unit if there are no snow days etc.

Texts

* Denotes abbreviations used to refer to texts later in this curriculum

- Let's Discover Holidays - *LD
- Let's Discover Mitzvot - *LDM
- Only 3 out of 10 LDM lessons have been incorporated into this curriculum to avoid overloading units. You can use the remaining lessons to extend units if necessary.
- Aleph Bet Mystery- By Amy Rosenberg- ABM

September - Unit 1: 4 sessions

Holidays: Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur

Texts/Pages: LD Fall 1-2, ABM pages 1-6

- Students will be able to orally recognize the Hebrew words for family and home.
- Students will be able to briefly describe the significance of Rosh Hashanah.
- Students will be able to briefly describe the significance of Yom Kippur.
- Students will be able to recognize the letters tav and shin

Key Words:

- Mishpachah
- Bayit
- Shofar
- Challah
- Davash
- Shana Tovah
- Shalom

Key Concepts:

- Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year and is a time for special family dinners and hearing the call of the shofar.
- Yom Kippur is an important day for saying sorry and asking God for help. We spend all day trying to be the best person we can be.

Key Terms:

- Rosh Hashanah
- Yom Kippur
- Fasting

Activities:

- Make and send New Year's cards home
- Read the story Jonah and the Whale

Suggested Books:

The Hardest Word by Jaqueline Jules
It's Shofar Time by Letifa Berry Kropf
Engineer Ari by Deborah Bodin Cohen
Even Higher by I.L. Peretz
Happy Birthday World by Letifa Berry Kropf
The Creation Story for Children by Helen Haidle
G-d's Paintbrush by Annette C. Compton

Assessments:

Hear students orally identify Hebrew letters and chorally chant simple Shabbat prayers

October - Unit 2: 4 sessions

Holidays: Sukkot and Simchat Torah

Texts/Pages ; LD fall 3-4, ABM pages 7-10

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will be able to briefly describe the meaning of Sukkot.
- Students will be able to briefly describe the meaning of Simchat Torah.
- Students will be able to name one mitzvah they can do.
- Students will be able to recognize the letters Resh and Dalet

Key Words:

- Sukkah
- Etrog
- Lulav
- Yad
- Aba
- Ima
- Shalom

Key Concepts:

- Sukkot is a holiday for camping, eating and spending time with family. It reminds us of when our ancestors used to camp out.
- Simchat Torah is a day for celebrating the Torah. It's a party for a book!
- The Torah teaches us God's commandments, which are called mitzvot.

Key Terms:

- Sukkot
- Mitzvah/Mitzvot
- Simchat Torah
- Torah
- Etrog
- Lulav
- Hakafah
- Family-Mishpachah
- Simcha

Activities:

- Make decorations for the Sukkah
- Edible Torahs- 2 short Pretzel sticks with fruit roll wrapped around it.

Suggested Books:

Engineer Ari and the Sukkah Express by Deborah Bodin
It's Sukkah Time by Latifa Berry Kropf
Hillel Builds a House by Shoshana Lepon
Torah Our Treasure by Etti Goldzard

November - Unit 3: 3 sessions

Texts/Pages: LD Fall 5-6, ABM - Bet and Vet

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will be able to describe some of the kinds of things that take place in a synagogue.
- Students will be able to give one example of a mitzvah that fits in with Tikkun Olam.
- Students will be able to write their names in Hebrew with vowels.
- Students will be able to briefly describe the significance of Shabbat.
- Students will be able to recite the blessing for lighting the candles on Shabbat.
- Students will be able to recognize the letters Bet/Vet

Key Words:

- B'nai Mitzvah
- Beit K'nesset
- Aron HaKodesh
- Ner Tamid
- Motzi
- Challah
- Shabbat Shalom
- Kotel
- Jerusalem
- Tel Aviv
- Tefillah
- Siddur

Key Concepts:

- Tikkun Olam is all about helping people and making the world a better place.
- Shabbat is a special day of rest. Just like God rested after creation people need a day of rest during the week.

Key Terms:

- Tikkun Olam
- Synagogue
- Shabbat

Suggested Activities:

- Watch Shalom Sesame - All About Israel
- I spy in the synagogue (Siddur, Ner Tamid, Bima, etc)

Suggested Books:

Goodnight Sh'ma by Jacqueline Jules

Where Shabbat Lives by Jan Goldin Fabiyi

Sammy Spider's First Shabbat by Sylvia Rouss, Katherine Kahn

Let's Visit Israel by Judy Groner

Sammy Spider's First Trip to Israel by Sylvia Rouss, Katherine Kahn

December - Unit 4: 3 sessions

Holiday: Hanukkah

Texts/Pages: LD Fall 7-8, ABM- Mem/Nun

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will be able to briefly describe the meaning of Chanukah.
- Students will be able to recite the blessing for lighting the Hanukiah.
- Students will be able to recognize the letters mem and nun (including final mem and nun)
- Yisrael
- Hanukah
- Hannukiah
- Sevivon
- Nes
- Gadol
- Hayah
- Sham
- Poh
- Israel
- Latkes / Sufganiyot
- Judah
- Maccabees
- Dreidel
- Nes Gadol Haya Sham /Po
- Ner Tamid

Key Concepts:

- Hanukkah reminds us about the story of the Maccabees, who fought for the freedom to be Jewish.

Key Terms:

- Hanukkah

Activities:

- Make and send out Hanukkah cards
- Decorate photo frames with the dreidel Hebrew letters and Hanukkah shapes.
- Talk about miracles of Hanukkah

Assessments:

Hear students chorally chant the Hanukkah Blessings

Suggest Books:

Hanukkah Lights by Melissa Sweet
Eight Days of Hanukkah by Melinda Levine
Eight Candles to Light by Jonny Zucker

January - Unit 5: 3 sessions

Holiday: Tu B'shevat

Texts/Pages: LD Spring 1, LDM 1, ABM 25-30 (Gimel, Hey and Chet)

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will be able to recognize the letters gimel, hey and chet.
- Students will be able to briefly describe the significance of Tu B'shevat.
- Students will be able to recite the blessing for eating fruit.
- Students will be able to briefly describe the meaning of Tzedakah.

Key Words:

- Etz/Etzim
- Tree of Life
- Tree of Knowledge
- Adam
- Eve
- Mensch

Key Concepts:

- Tu B'shevat is the New Year for Trees.
- Just like Adam and Eve, we are keepers of God's garden.
- Tzedakah means helping other people. When we share and help others we are doing God's work.

Key Terms:

- Tu B'shevat
- Tzedakah

Suggested Activities:

- Computer Lab
- Plant a tree in Israel - each child receives a photo copy of the certificate
- What is a Mitzvah
- What is Tzedakah
- Tu B'shevat Seder

Suggested Books:

A Seder for Tu B'shevat by Harlene Appelman
Grandpa and Me on Tu B'shevat by Marji E. Gold-vukson

February - Unit 6: 3 sessions

Holiday: Purim

Texts/Pages: LD spring 2-3; ABM (lessons for Yud, Alef and Ayin)

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will be able to briefly describe the significance of Purim.
- Students will be able to share one fact about Motzei Shabbat.
- Students will be able to recognize the letters Yud, Alef and Ayin

Key Words:

- Esther
- Haman
- Vashti
- King Ahasuerus
- Mordechai
- Persia / Shushan
- Grogger
- Hamantaschen
- Megillah

- Shalach Manot
- Matanot l'evyonim
- Bracha

Key Concepts:

- Purim is a holiday for celebration because Esther and Mordechai saved the Jewish people from Haman.
- Jewish days begin at night and end when the sun goes down.
- The Purim Story
- The Miracle of Purim

Key Terms:

- Purim
- Motzei Shabbat

Suggested Activities:

- Decorate the board with a big Grogger, crown, mask and Hamantaschen

Suggested Books:

When is Purim by Edie Stoltz Zokower
The Queen Who Saved Her People by Tilda Balsely
Purim by Carwen Bredeson
It's Purim Time! By Latifa Berry Kropf

March - Unit 7: 4 sessions

Holiday: Pesach

Texts/Pages:; LD Spring 4-5; LDM 2, ABM (Lessons on Sin and Kuf)

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will be able to briefly describe the significance of Pesach.
- Students will be able to recite the first 2 questions.
- Students will be able to name one thing they can do for a sick friend.
- Students will be able to recognize the letters Sin and Kuf.

Key Words:

- Hametz
- Matzah
- Haroset
- Z'roah
- Betzah
- Maror
- Karpas
- Lamb's blood
- Afikomen
- Elijah's Cup
- Miriam's Cup
- Mi She'beirach

Key Concepts:

- Pesach is a holiday all about freedom. We spend time with family, friends and eat special foods while listening to the Pesach story.
- The Pesach story is not over. We still have to work to finish the story and make sure people are free.
- Hearing from a friend when we are sick and help us feel better. Visiting the sick is a very Jewish thing to do.

Key Terms:

- Seder
- Freedom

Suggested Activities:

- Special Model Seder Activities for all grades below grade 3

Suggested Books:

Passover is Here by Bobby Pearlman
Four Special Questions by Jonny Zucker
Sammy Spider's First Haggadah by Sylvia A. Rouss
The Story of Passover by Francis Barry Silberg
A Touch of Seder by Ari Sollish

April - Unit 8: 2 sessions

Holidays: Yom Haatzmaut

Texts/Pages: LD Spring 6, ABM 41-46 (lessons kuf and chaf)

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will be able to talk about Erev Shabbat and that it is compared to a bride.
- Students will be able to share two ideas about where God can be found.
- Students will be able to name one thing that people do on Yom Haatzmaut.
- Students will be able to briefly describe the significance of Yom Haatzmaut.
- Students will be able to recognize the letters Kuf and Chaf (including final Kuf and Chaf)

Key Words:

- Bracha
- Ha Motzi
- Kiddush
- Kallah
- Hora
- Shalom
- Haifa
- Eilat
- Dead Sea
- Jerusalem

Key Concepts:

- Shabbat is so special that we sometimes compare it to a beautiful bride on her wedding day.
- We can find God wherever we choose to look for God. God is inside us and all around us.
- Yom Haatzmaut is Israel's birthday.

Key Terms:

- Shabbat / Erev Shabbat
- Yom Haatzmaut

Suggested Activities:

- Visit: the Rabbi and the Educational Director
- Decorate the board with flowers
- Plant flowers and label them in Hebrew
- Scavenger hunt around the building

Suggested Books:

Butterflies by Nic Bishop
Boker Tov! Good Morning! By Rabbi Joe Black
Picnic at Camp Shalom by Jaqueline Jules

May - Unit 9: 4 sessions

Holiday: Shavuot

Texts/Pages: LD Spring 7-8; LDM 3, ABM 47-52 (zayin, tet and pay)

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will be able to briefly describe the significance of Shavuot.
- Students will be able to say one thing about a mezuzah.
- Students will be able to share one way we can help the hungry.
- Students will be able to recognize the letters Zayin, Tet and Pay

Key Words:

- Torah
- Mt. Sinai
- Aliyah
- Bikkurim
- Kosher
- Yad
- Blintzes
- Ma'achil Re'evim

- Naomi
- Ruth
- Boaz
- Tzedakah

Key Concepts:

- Shavuot is a story about the giving of the Torah.
- God's commandments teach us how to live a Jewish life.
- A Mezuzah reminds us that we want our house to be a Jewish home filled with joy and love.
- Feeding those who are hungry is a very holy thing to do.

Key Terms:

- Ten Commandments
- Shavuot
- Mezuzah