

Kindergarten Curriculum

Overview

The kindergarten curriculum will familiarize students with key Hebrew words. Students will also learn about Jewish culture and values.

Total number of sessions: 20

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.

Total Units: 9

September - Unit 1: 3 sessions

Holidays: Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will be able to share one thing about Rosh Hashanah.
- Students will be able to share one thing about Yom Kippur.
- Students will be able to identify important holiday ritual objects.
- Students will be able to articulate one reason that we celebrate these holidays

Key Words:

- Shofar
- Challah
- Davash
- Shana Tovah

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

Books Read:

The World's Birthday, A Rosh Hashanah Story by Barbara Goldin
Jonah and the Great Fish by Warwick Hutton

Worksheets Reviewed:

- Let's Discover Holidays - Rosh Hashanah
- Let's Discover Holidays - Yom Kippur

Special Activities and Projects:

- Creating L'Shana Tovah cards to students' families
- Making apple and honey platters (using 2 clear plates and a cup in the middle-Rosh Hashanah clip art pictures are glued to the first plate, the second clear plate is glued on top and the cup, labeled with honey and Davash is glued to the middle of the top plate)
- Create a Jonah and the Whale craft and on the bottom write: " I am sorry for..."and the students tell the teacher how to complete the sentence.

Assessments:

During each class and at the end of each class the teacher asks questions about what is being studied to ensure that each student has a basic understanding. The teacher solicits oral responses from students to ensure that students understand the book that is being read and the significance of specific arts and crafts projects.

October - Unit 2: 2 sessions

Holidays: Sukkot and Simchat Torah

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will be able to share one thing about Sukkot.
- Students will be able to share one thing about Simchat Torah.
- Students will be able to identify significant ritual objects.
- Students will be able to articulate one reason that we celebrate these holidays.
- Students will be able to list the order in which God created the world.

Key Words:

- Sukkah
- Etrog
- Lulav

Key Concepts:

- Sukkot is a holiday for camping, eating and spending time with family. It reminds of when our ancestors used to camp out.
- Simchat Torah is a day for celebrating the Torah.

Key Terms:

- Sukkot
- Simchat Torah
- Torah
- Creation

Books Read:

Sammy Spider's First Sukkot

On Sukkot and Simchat Torah by Cathy Goldberg Fishman

Creation by Gerald McDermott

Worksheets Reviewed:

- Let's Discover Holidays - Sukkot
- Let's Discover Holidays - Simchat Torah
- Teach Me Torah - G-d and Creation

Special Activities and Projects:

- Make decorations to hang in TBE Sukkah. Glue 2 separate rows of Popsicle sticks to a piece of cardboard, glue leaves on the top and glue colorful beads to represent fruit. Then hole punch the top and use yarn to hang the decorations.
- Decorate a scroll print out with Jewish pictures, glue that to a larger piece of paper and roll in both sides to represent a Torah.
- Make flags with large easel paper and paper towel rolls. Students will decorate the flags with Jewish symbols.
- Each student can make a Book of Creation. The teacher and class labels one page for each of the days of creation and the students color a picture of that day's creation....ie- Day 1 - Darkness and Light.

Assessments: Through discussion and oral response, the teacher is able to assess student learning.

By finishing their creation books, students demonstrate an understanding of the order in which G-d created the world and on the last day, G-d rested.

November - Unit 3: 2 sessions

Goals and Objectives:

- 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 introduced to the story of Noah and the Flood.
- Students will be introduced to the story of Abram's relationship with God.

Key Words:

- Motzi
- Challah
- Shabbat Shalom
- Noah
- Abraham

Key Concepts:

- Shabbat is a special day of rest. Just like God rested after Creation, people need a day of rest during the week.
- We can learn important lessons from our Jewish ancestors. Their examples can help us figure out how to be good Jews.

Key Terms:

- Shabbat

Books Read:

Sammy Spider's First Shabbat by Sylvia Rouss

Shabbat by Miriam Nerlove

G-d Sent a Rainbow and Other Bible Stories (p. 12) by Yona Zeldis

The Animals and the Ark by Karla Kuskin

Labels for Laibel by Dina Rosenfeld (teaches sharing)

Worksheets Reviewed:

For the Family - Shabbat Blessings Folder (send home with each student)

Let's Discover Fall Holidays -Shabbat, The Creation of the World

Let's Discover Shabbat - A Gift from G-d

Let's Discover Shabbat - Saying Thank You

Teach Me Torah - Noah

Teach Me Torah - Abraham

Special Activities and Projects:

- Play Shabbat Shalom, a Matching Game
- Make Shabbat Shalom Coloring Sheets, with a page for each of the 3 Shabbat Blessings (candles, wine, challah)
- Bulletin Board Project - Ask each student: "What do you like about Shabbat?" Have each student color a picture of what s/he enjoys on Shabbat (spending time with family, drinking grape juice, looking at flowers etc.)
- Have students make a Noah's Ark craft: Cut out 2 arks from brown paper and glue one onto blue paper. Cut flaps in the second ark and glue it to the first ark. The students then close pairs of animals from sheets of animal clip art and glue the animals to their ark, with a Noah, a rainbow and a dove.
- Have the students do a Noah's Ark maze.
- Students can draw pictures of themselves helping someone.

Assessments: Verbal discussion and questions and student answers to questions about what they are learning both from a story or class discussion. Students individually recite the Shabbat blessings.

December - Unit 4: 2 sessions

Holiday: Hanukkah

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 Hanukkiyah.
- Students will be able to identify significant ritual objects.
- Students will be able to identify the Hebrew letters on the dreidel.

Key Words:

- Hanukkiyah
- Sevivon
- Latkes / Sufganiyot
- Gelt
- Dreidel
- Nes Gadol Haya Sham /Po

Key Concepts:

- Hanukkah reminds us about how special it is to be Jewish.

Key Terms:

- Hanukkah

Books Read:

The Best Hanukkah Ever by Barbara Diamond Goldin

Is It Hanukkah Yet? By Nancy Krulik

Sammy Spider's First Hanukkah by Sylvia Rouss

Dinosaur on Hanukkah by Diane Rauchwerger

I Love Hanukkah by Marilyn Hirsh

Worksheets Reviewed:

Let's Discover Fall Holidays: The Story of Hanukkah

Let's Discover Fall Holidays: Celebrating Hanukkah

Special Activities and Projects:

- Glue the Hebrew words Todah Rabah to construction paper and make thank you cards to the students' parents, for the Hanukkah gifts they receive.
- Teach the students how to play dreidel
- Play Hanukkah Bingo
- Use foam Hanukkah stickers and make Hanukkah cards for each student's family. Take photographs of the students playing dreidel and place one inside of each card.
- Watch the Shalom Sesame Chanukah DVD
- Glue a sheet with the 3 Hanukkah Blessings to one side of a large piece of construction paper and have the students color Hanukkah pictures (menorahs, dreidels, gelt and latkes) on the other side.

Assessments:

Have students explain the meaning of Todah Rabah.

Through oral questions and answers, students demonstrate what they have learned.

Students demonstrate mastery of the Hanukkah Blessings by chanting them aloud.

January - Unit 5: 2 sessions

Holiday: Tu B'Shevat

Goals and Objectives:

- 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 describe what a mezuzah is.
- Students will be introduced to the concept of tzedakah.
- Students will explore the sanctuary and be able to identify important objects in there.

Key Words:

- Etz/Etzim
- Mezuzah
- Bimah
- Ark
- Ner Tamid

- Seder

Key Concepts:

- Tu B'Shevat is the New Year for Trees.
- Trees are an important part of Israel and the world.
- Tzedakah means helping other people. When we share and help others we are doing God's work.

Key Terms:

- Tu B'Shevat
- Tzedakah

Books Read:

Quarters & Dimes & Nickels & Pennies by Baila Olidort
Sammy Spider's First Tu B'Shevat by Sylvia Rouss
Ima on the Bima by Mindy Portnoy
A Mezuzah on the Door by Amy Meltzer
A Purim Album by Raymond Zwerlin and Audrey Marcus
Sammy Spider's First Purim by Sylvia Rouss
First Book of Bible Heroes by Dona Meilach

Worksheets Reviewed:

Let's Discover Mitzvot: Tzedakah
 Let's Discover Spring Holidays: Tu B'Shevat
 Let's Discover Shabbat: A Time to Play
 Let's Discover Spring Holidays: Celebrating Purim
 Let's Discover Spring Holidays: The Story of Purim

Special Activities and Projects:

- Decorate plastic cylinder shaped containers with stickers and labels with the English and Hebrew words Tzedakah and discuss the large class Tzedakah container.
- Decorate small planters and glue the phrase "Tu B'Shevat to Passover" to each and add dirt and parsley seeds.
- Participate in a K,1 and 2 Tu B'Shevat Seder
- Take the students on a field trip to the Sanctuary and point out religious objects such as the Ner Tamid and prayer books
- Glue tissue paper squares to water bottles, fill the bottles with some beads and glue the covers on to make Purim Groggers
- Make Purim crowns out of construction paper

Assessments:

Use question and answer techniques to measure student learning.

Ask students about the purposes of each arts and crafts project

Have students talk about what Tzedakah does for others

Ask students to talk about each story that is read.

February - Unit 6: 2 sessions

Holiday: Purim

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will be able to briefly describe the significance of Purim.
- Students will be introduced to the story of Abraham, Sarah and the three messengers from God.
- Students will be introduced to the story of Rebecca meeting Isaac.

Key Words:

- Esther
- Haman
- Vashti
- King Ahashuerus
- Mordechai
- Persia / Shushan
- Grogger
- Hamantaschen
- Megillah
- Shalach Manot
- Abraham
- Sarah
- Rebecca
- Isaac

Key Concepts:

- Purim is a holiday for celebration because Esther and Mordechai saved the Jewish people from Haman.
- Abraham shows us how important it is to treat guests with kindness and to help them feel welcome.
- Rebecca shows us how important it is to care for other people.

Key Terms:

- Purim

Books Read:

A Purim Album by Raymond Zwerin and Audrey Marcus
Sammy Spider's First Purim by Sylvia Rouss
First Book of Bible Heroes by Dona Meilach

Worksheets Reviewed:

Let's Discover Spring Holidays: Celebrating Purim
Let's Discover Spring Holidays: The Story of Purim
Teach Me Torah: Rebecca

Suggested Activities:

- Glue tissue paper squares to water bottles, fill the bottles with beads and glue the covers on to make Purim Groggers
- Use construction paper to make Purim clowns and decorate the clowns with glitter, glue and sticky gems.
- Make Mishloach Manot bags, filled with Hamantaschen, Groggers and raisins. Each child can decorate a bag for another child in the class.

Assessments:

- Question/answer activities

March - Unit 7: 3 sessions

Holiday: Pesach

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will be able to briefly describe the significance of Pesach.
- Students will be able to recite the four questions.
- Students will be introduced to the story of Jacob and Esau.

Key Words:

- Hametz
- Matzo
- Haroset
- Z'roah
- Betzah
- Maror
- Karpas
- Afikomen
- Elijah's Cup
- Miriam's Cup
- Rebecca
- Isaac

- Jacob
- Esau

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 story of Esau selling his birthright teaches us that sometimes people act without thinking. Sometimes we forget to think about the things we will need in the future because we want something right now.

Key Terms:

- Seder
- Freedom
- Birthright

Books Read:

Festival of Freedom, The Story of Passover by Maida Silverman
Hooray! It's Passover! By Leslie Kimmelman

Worksheets Reviewed:

- Let's Discover Spring Holidays: The Story of Passover
- Let's Discover Spring Holidays: Celebrating Passover

Suggested Activities:

- Make "egg cup Moses" by placing a plastic, small baby wrapped in a piece of felt in an egg cup from the egg carton. Place the egg cup on a blue plate (to look like water) and use green paper to make grass. These tie into the Moses story.
- Review the 4 Questions through choral exercises
- Play the Passover Game of Four: a "Go Fish" style card game.
- Make Seder Plates
- Search for the Afikomen Game
- Watch Shalom Sesame Passover DVD
- K, 1 and 2 Model Seder

Assessments:

- Question/answer activities
- Story re-tells

April - Unit 8: 1 sessions
Holidays: Yom HaAtzmaut

Goals and Objectives:

- 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 introduced to the story of Jacob, Leah and Rachel's marriage.

Key Words:

- Israel
- Jacob
- Leah
- Rachel
- Laban
- Beth-El

Key Concepts:

- Yom HaAtzmaut is Israel's birthday.
- Rachel's kindness can be an example for us. She went out of her way to help others, even if it meant more work for her.

Key Terms:

- Yom HaAtzmaut
- Independence

Books Read:

Sammy Spider's First Trip to Israel by Sylvia Rouss

Worksheets Reviewed:

- Let's Discover Spring Holidays: Yom HaAtzmaut

Special Activities:

Teacher writes the word Ema on the board and has the students copy the word and make Mother's Day cards

Meet with and talk to Israeli soldiers/emissaries

Do an Israel-related word search, a maze to find the way to the Western Wall and connect-the-dots to form an El Al airplane.

Assessments:

- Question/answer activities
- Story re-tells

- Through art work students can demonstrate an understanding of what they have learned.

May - Unit 9: 3 sessions

Holiday: Shavuot

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will be able to briefly describe the significance of Shavuot.
- Students will be introduced to the story of Jacob's return home.
- Students will be introduced to the story of Joseph and his many colored coat.
- Students will be introduced to the story of Joseph meeting his brothers in Egypt

Key Words:

- Torah
- Mt. Sinai
- Jacob
- Esau
- Joseph
- Caravan
- Egypt
- Pharaoh
- Benjamin

Key Concepts:

- Shavuot is a story about the giving of the Torah.
- God's commandments teach us how to live a Jewish life.
- Jacob's return home shows us how important family is. Even though Jacob was afraid he wanted to make peace with his brother.
- Joseph's story teaches us that people can change as they grow older. It also shows us how important it is to forgive others.

Key Terms:

- Ten Commandments
- Shavuot

Books Read:

Eli and His Little White Lie by Goldie Golding

Worksheets Reviewed:

- Teach Me Torah: Joseph
- Let's Discover Mitzvot: Derech Eretz

Suggested Activities:

- Do a color by number picture of Joseph's coat

Assessments:

- Question/answer activities
- Story re-tells
- Through art work, student can demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts.