

NAME: _____

The Seven Species of Israel

In the Torah, it says:

ז כִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, מְבִיאֲךָ
אֶל-אֶרֶץ טוֹבָה: אֶרֶץ,
נְחָלִי מַיִם--עֵינֹת וַתְּהַמֹּת,
יִצְאִים בַּבְּקָעָה וּבְהָר.

7 For HaShem your God will bring you into a good land, a land of rivers of water, of fountains and depths, springing forth in valleys and hills;

ח אֶרֶץ חֲטָה וּשְׁעָרָה, וְגִפְן
וַתְּאֲנָה וְרִמּוֹן; אֶרֶץ-זֵית
שֶׁמֶן, וַדְּבַשׁ.

8 a land of wheat and barley, and grape-vines and fig-trees and pomegranates; a land of olive-trees and dates;

ט אֶרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר לֹא
בְּמִסְכָּנֹת תֹּאכַל-בָּהּ
לֶחֶם--לֹא-תִחַסֵּר כֹּל, בָּהּ;
אֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֲבָנֶיהָ בְּרִזָּל,
וַיִּמְהַרְרֶיהָ תִּחְצַב נְחֹשֶׁת.

9 a land where you will eat plenty of bread, you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you may dig copper.

י וְאָכַלְתָּ, וּשְׂבַעְתָּ--וַיְבָרַכְתָּ
אֶת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ,
עַל-הָאֶרֶץ הַטֹּבָה אֲשֶׁר
נָתַן-לָךְ.

10 And you will eat and be satisfied, and bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.

1. Circle the seven species that the Torah names in pasuk 8.

2. This is from the book of Devarim - the Israelites have been wandering in the desert with only Manna to eat, and are about to enter Israel. Why do you think God is telling the Israelites about the land?

3. What kind of land do you think the Israelites are in now? Why is this important?

The Torah has a lot to say about land and taking care of it. Here is another quote:
"And the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden, to cultivate it and to protect it." -Beresheet 2:15

4. What is this quote telling us to do with the land (how we should treat it)?

Here is yet another quote from the Torah about our environment...

"Be fruitful and multiply, fill the Earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the Earth." -Beresheet 1:28

5. What is this quote telling us to do with the land/environment?

6. How is this different from the first quote (Beresheet 2:15)?

This is a story that is *from* the Torah but not *from* the Torah - like Rashi, but a different commentator who wanted to add to what the Torah says about taking care of our world: **At the time when God created Adam, He took him around the trees of the Garden of Eden, and He said to them, "Look at My works! How beautiful and praiseworthy they are. Everything that I have created, I created for you. Take care not to damage and destroy My world, for if you damage it, there is no one to repair it after you."**

7. What is this commentator telling us to be careful about, and why??

Here is another one...

"When you besiege (surround so nobody/nothing can go in or out) a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, you will not destroy the trees by cutting them down; you may eat of them, but you shall not cut them down, because a tree is like a person..." - Devarim 20:19

8. Why do you think the Torah tells us not to cut down the trees of a city that we are trying to capture/make war against?

Choose one of the following (EITHER writing or drawing):

Creative writing opportunity - Pretend like you are an Israelite who has just entered the land of Israel. Write about your first time eating some of the 7 species of Israel, and why you are so excited to try them. Include the names of the fruits (bonus if you can say them in Hebrew!) and what you think of eating them!! Make sure to use descriptive language!

Drawing opportunity: Draw a comic or picture depicting (showing) the last quote from the Torah (Devarim 20:19). Be sure to include some of the words of Torah and a caption or word/thought bubble to help explain the drawing or a character's thinking!!!!