

# HUNGRY HUNGRY HALACHIC HIPPOS



**Background:** Your backyard is a big mess - there is a ton of apples that just fell from your apple tree, oranges everywhere that fell out of a basket on your patio table, stuffed animals and toys everywhere from your younger siblings, and even a bunch of *muktzah* items left over from last week's family BBQ. Your parents just asked you to clean up the yard an hour before your Shabbat lunch guests come over. You have an idea that might make the process a lot more fun!

**Rules:**

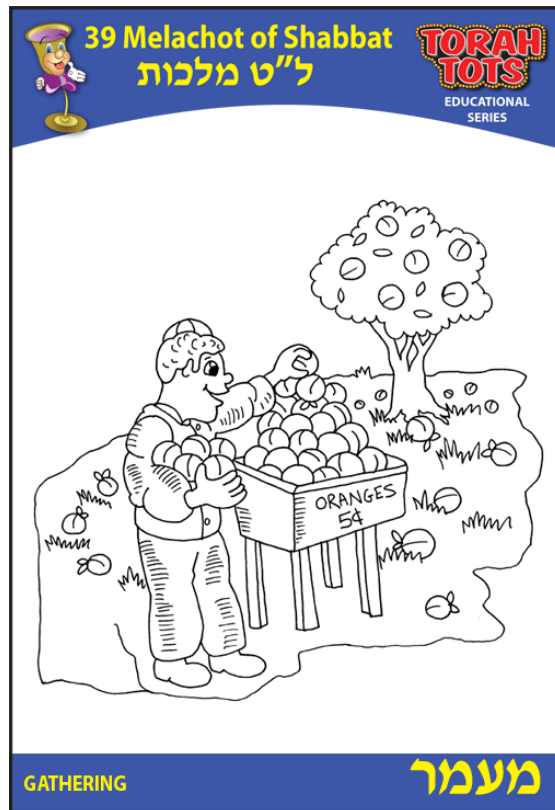
1. Student on rollie-thingie have to be pulled back almost *immediately* after she's rolled into the middle. I will whistle a 3-in-the-key violation and dump out your basket if I see this happening.
2. You CANNOT take your hands off the basket at ANY TIME during the competition. If I see this I will dump out your basket.
3. Any objects that fall out of your basket on your way back to home base are not yours anymore, even if they bounce back in the general direction of your base. No throwing or tossing the contents of your basket toward your home base. You **must** roll all the way back PAST THE LINE OF TAPE ON THE FLOOR before releasing the contents of your basket. If you violate this rule I will dump out your basket.
4. There will be two variations of the game, and here is how points are awarded in each variation:
  - **Variation 1: I'm Shomer Shabbat** - only gather things that are *mutar* to gather on Shabbat
    - -10 for every *me'amer de-oraita* object collected (red balloons, apples)
    - -5 for every *me'amer de-rabanan* object collected (orange balloons, oranges)
    - -5 for every *muktzah* object gathered (blue balloons, markers)
    - +10 for every non-*ma'mar* and non-*muktzah* object gathered (yellow balloons, green balloons, stuffed animals)
  - **Variation 2: Me'amer and muktzah master** - more points for every time you break Shabbat by violating the melacha of *me'amer* and laws of *muktzah*  
(Note to competitors: Rabbi Gordon does not support the violation of Torah and/or Rabbinic prohibitions on Shabbat)
    - +10 for every *me'amer de-oraita* object collected (red balloons, apples)
    - +5 for every *me'amer de-rabanan* object collected (orange balloons, oranges)
    - +5 for every *muktzah* object gathered (blue balloons, markers)
    - -5 for every non-*ma'mar* and non-*muktzah* object gathered (yellow balloons, green balloons, stuffed animals)

**Points awarded** (at least two games):

- 1st place: 1000
- 2nd place: 500
- 3rd place: 250

# מעמר - *me'amer*

Pronounced *meh-ah-mayr*



Picture from torahtots.com

(The following information is copied/paraphrased from [http://www.jewishpathways.com/files/Meamer\\_Gather\\_Round.pdf](http://www.jewishpathways.com/files/Meamer_Gather_Round.pdf))

**The Av Melacha in the Mishkan:** The act of gathering cut wheat, or other things, and bundling them into sheaves.

**The Tolada:** Seemingly any case of gathering other objects together should be a tolada.

Identifying the *melechet machshevet* of *me'amer* - it's creative act - will help.

It is clear that *me'amer* cannot just be "gathering", but must involve gathering in a creative manner for a creative purpose. That definition will also limit its application.

Gathering and bundling wheat into piles is very productive - the *melechet machshevet* involves gathering and bundling in a productive/creative manner.

Which acts of bundling are similar enough and significant enough to be classified as creative and productive as well?

The Ketzot haChoshen explains that the act of *imur* (gathering) needs to be an *imur she'eino kayama* - a gathering that will last. Picking up fruit with your hands will not last. Tying or gathering in a basket is a form of gathering that lasts. This act of creating a lasting gathering is the *melechet machshevet* of the *me'amer*.

### 5 conditions to be *assur d'oraita*

1. Need some formal gathering
2. Must have grown from the ground (*gedulei karka*)
3. Only if gathered in original location
4. No second time violation of *me'amer*
5. Food/item being gathered cannot be processed

### The *Shevut* (Rabbinic safeguard):

- Using basket to collect scattered produce not in the field/original location = *uvda d'chol* (something that is done exclusively on the weekdays, so is viewed as a weekday activity that shouldn't be done on Shabbat, like riding a bike).

**Condition #1** involves items like fruits, vegetables, and grains. Interestingly, some authorities hold that naturally occurring rocks and minerals are also considered as "growing from the ground" for purposes of *Me'amer*. This would include items like diamonds and other precious gems.

**Condition #3:** If you had a bag of apples you'd bought at the supermarket (before Shabbat), and the apples spilled out onto the floor, you could gather them up again. This is because the fruits are no longer in the place where they'd grown.

Also, we have **condition #4**, reflecting the idea that, once an item is gathered, the halacha does not consider any further gathering to be significant.

By "original state" (**condition #5**) we mean that the item hasn't been physically changed from the form in which it grows. Let's take the example of wood. Wood comes from the ground, and is thus subject to *Me'amer*. However, once it is changed into a specific item, it is no longer in its original state, and *Me'amer* doesn't apply. For instance, if your child owns a set of wooden toys, you may help him or her clean them up on Shabbat.