

Sukkot: Shake Your Lulav!

Grade level: 5th grade, can be modified and adapted to grades 3, 4 & 6

Curriculum Area: Holidays

Time frame: two weeks, including the intermediate days of Sukkot

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DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL AND/OR CREATIVE THINKING

The unit *Shake Your Lulav* integrates multiple disciplines while further developing Jewish concepts and values. The Google slide presentation, which integrates content and skill building, as well as Hebrew language acquisition, was originally designed for use as a flipped classroom in the fall of 2015 when the Pope visited Philadelphia. School was closed for two days prior to Sukkot. The students received a short orientation to the project in school and then worked at home. They communicated by phone as well as a variety of technology tools such as FaceTime, Skype, Google, interactive bulletin boards, etc. The students had additional time during the intermediate days of the holiday in school to work collaboratively as well. No homework assignments were given throughout the holiday. The unit was refined and updated for fall, 2016.

The children enthusiastically signed onto the Internet from home and were thrilled to do their 'homework' that way as opposed to opening pages in a workbook. Although close attention was given to the progression of the presentation of information and activities in the slides, the children tackled the ones with the games and videos first, as one might expect from children. While beginning this way did help reinforce their knowledge, a few students waited too long to read their book and then choose and execute the project. A few students had trouble navigating the technology in some instances.

The school uses the TaL AM Hebrew and Heritage Program. The theme in 5th grade for the festival of Sukkot is the mitzvah of Ushpizin. (The theme in 4th grade is how to differentiate between kosher and non-kosher sukkot. The Google Slide presentation for fourth grade reflected that theme. Based on related mishnayot, the children needed to analyze and evaluate whether or not certain sukkot, including the school sukkah, were kosher.) The Google Slide presentation for fifth grade begins by tapping into and then building onto students' prior knowledge.

The main thrust of the 5th grade Google Slide presentation is the mitzvah of inviting guests into the sukkah, specifically honorary spiritual guests from our past. The centerpiece of the presentation is the series of books provided by TaL AM, each focusing on a different Ushpizin. The book traces the story of the character according to Jewish teachings and helps the students define what we learn from each character. By creating an invitation for their character or doing one of the other options offered, the students need to gather the information about their character, examine why that character is one of the Ushpizin, support their decision to invite the character and then design an invitation explaining the merits of the Ushpizin and why that Ushpizin is being invited. Other activities throughout also employ critical thinking skills.

Enduring understandings: We experience the mitzvah of hachnasat orchim by inviting guests into our homes, temporary and permanent, and treat them with the respect due them.

Essential questions: How do we experience the mitzvah of hachnasat orchim? How do we fulfill the mitzvah of hachnasat orchim in our sukkot, our temporary home?

General Learning Plan: In class, the children are introduced to the word 'Ushpizin'. The word, an Aramaic word, is explained and examples of Biblical heroes are elicited. The Ushpizin are honorary guests. The children are invited to generate a list of whom they would invite. The traditional list is then presented.

The TaL AM literature on the ushpizin is distributed. Each small book focuses on one of the ushpizin. There are some books about modern day people as well, such as Nechama Leibowitz and Golda Meir. The children are instructed to read their books and draw on what they learn to determine why their person would be invited to a sukkah.

Armed with the TaL AM books, the students are now ready to begin the Google slide project. The project includes writing components, verbal activities and audio and visual tasks. Since some of the work is to be completed at home where some children have little or no support for Hebrew, some of the material is in English as are pieces of the writing assignments.

Breakdown of Google Slides technology components:

- ✳ **Slide #2:** Link to www.myjewishlearning.com Sukkot interactive quiz. Students can take it as many times as they'd like without having to deal with grading.
- ✳ **Slide #3:** Links to two interactive Hebrew sites: dahbear.org and quizlet.com. Students will find games and activities to help them reinforce the vocabulary associated with the unit. Again, students can self-evaluate. The opportunity for test taking is on both sites.
- ✳ **Slides 4 and 5:** Lino boards - an interactive bulletin board. The children have the opportunity to view several videos that were downloaded from youtube.com and then uploaded onto the Lino board for viewing. The children are encouraged to put up post-its with their responses to a variety of questions. Slide #5 includes the element of social/emotional learning, the opportunity for children to engage in the various components of the festival and share their ideas in a comfortable and safe environment.
- ✳ **Slide #6:** Link to powtoon.com. The students have the opportunity to view a video that was created from the TaL AM materials. It includes appropriate music as well as text. On this slide is also a link to Keshet v'Anan, a Hebrew video that explains the importance of the traditional ushpizin and what virtue each one represents when visiting the sukkah.
- ✳ **Slide #7:** This slide provides a list of options for the children. Their choices will serve as a culminating activity for the unit. It is to be part of a celebration of the completion of the unit and the knowledge gained.
- ✳ **Slide #8:** GetKahoot.com. This is an activity to play individually or in teams to assess learning.
- ✳ **Slide #9:** This is a link to EdPuzzle.com. A youtube video was downloaded and then uploaded to this tool. As the children view the video, they will find that it stops with some frequency as they are required to answer a question before proceeding.

Stronger students may need to view it only once. Weaker students have the opportunity to watch it as many times as they need to be able to post their response.

- * Slide #10: This slide includes links to youtube videos that are collection of standard songs for Sukkot and some new ones as well.**