

Sukkah Paper

This year in Jewish Studies class during sukkot time we were learning about what makes a סוכה kosher. We then got assigned a project to pick a kosher or non-kosher סוכה and build it. We chose to build a סוכה in a tree. Our סוכה is kosher but you can not go in it on yom tov/ a festival. The reason for this is that in the Torah on yom tov you are not allowed to work, Cutting a tree or wood is considered work. You might be thinking that you're not actually cutting the tree on yom tov so it's ok but if you are climbing the tree to get into your סוכה, and a branch accidentally breaks, you will be breaking Shabbat or yom tov so that is why you cannot use your סוכה in a tree on yom tov.

The first thing we did in the designing process was sketching and deciding on materials. At first we wanted to use a paper towel roll for our tree trunk, later on we decided to switch it out with a PVC pipe. We also changed other things like what to use for branches, we started with popsicle sticks and finally decided on going outside to get real branches. We decided to use moss as our grass so we used hot glue to stick it onto our base. We used wood glue to stick together four pieces of wood.

After our designing process, we began to start the building process. We first got a PVC pipe that was 26 centimeters. Then, we made holes for the sticks that we gathered outside the Science and Innovation Center. While two of us worked on making the holes, the other one picked out and painted a board that we would use for our tree. When we finished making the holes in the PVC pipe, we hot glued our sticks in. After that, we put algae on the board to look like grass. Finally, we glued our PVC pipe on to the board. We had some difficulties putting it on because the wood glue wouldn't hold and balance. So instead, we wanted to make a little dent in the wood to stabilize, but the power tool would only reach so far on our board. Since we wanted the PVC pipe to be in the middle, so we glued four little rectangular pieces of wood around the PVC pipe to stabilize it. To make the wood look better, we put the brown model magic that we used for

the trunk over the wood to make it look like roots. Our next step was to make the sukkah. We cut four six inch squares to make the sukkah, so we could have one side to look into it, and one side to have the open roof. After we super glued the squares together, we found sticks to use as the roof. Then we put moss on the sticks on the roof and on the sticks on the trunk. Finally, we glued the sukkah to the trunk and added a little ladder.

From this project, we learned about what makes a kosher sukkah and how to better use power tools. Overall, we enjoyed this project, and loved the building aspect of it.