

JEHMS- Interdisciplinary Multi-week Unit for Social Studies and English Language Arts (ELA)

This multidisciplinary, one trimester unit involves both social studies and ELA classes to teach Common Core middle school skills.

ELA:

Materials:

- Novel: *Out of Many Waters* by Jacqueline Dembar Greene
- *Out of Many Waters* Study guide www.behrmanhouse.com/download/file/fid/5014
- Historical Data: <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/amsterdam.html>
This web site describes the petition of Jews from Recife, Brazil who escaped the Inquisition on Dutch ships and landed in New Amsterdam (later New York)
- Primary Source Letter: From George Washington to Touro Synagogue
- Poem: *The New Colossus* by Emma Lazarus
- Visit web site of Congregation Shearith Yisrael, the actual active surviving congregation described in *Out of Many Waters*. <http://shearithisrael.org/history>

Class will read *Out of Many Waters*, use original quizzes to check for comprehension, complete a final project and presentation using the behrmanhouse Study Guide. Students will read historical information about New Amsterdam and the Jewish settlers from Recife. Students will visit the web site of the active Congregation Shearith Yisrael in New York City, the oldest Kehilla in the USA formed by the settlers from Recife. Students will read the letter from President George Washington to the Jewish Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, and analyze the primary source. Students will read *The New Colossus* by Emma Lazarus, analyze the poem, see how it is become the symbol of American dignity and relief for immigrants, write their own poems, and discuss Jewish American history and the impact of Jews on American culture.

Social Studies:

Materials:

Geography: Using *Out of Many Waters* as a guide, student will map as they read, the path of the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisition as it made its way to Brazil. Students will map the path of Jews who escaped Brazil, landing in Cuba and finally New Amsterdam.

Students will learn about the Dutch, French, Spanish, and Portuguese explorers and their colonization of South, Central, and North America.

Students will learn about the two earliest Jewish Congregations in America, Congregation Shearith Yisrael and the Touro Synagogue. Students will review the role

of both communities in the foundation of America; the role of Jews in triangular trade; the impact of Jews on freedom of religion in America; the role of these Jewish communities in the American Revolution.

Students will explore paths of Jewish emigration from Europe to various parts of the globe with a focus on waves of Jewish immigration to America as part of greater waves of global immigration to the American colonies and the United States.

The history of the Statue of Liberty will be explored as the students study The New Colossus in English class.

Essays written for social studies will also be submitted in English class. Essays should include concepts of Jewish identity, Jewish experience in the Inquisition, Jewish Emigration and Immigration, Jewish impact on American history.