

EDUCATOR SUBMITTED LESSON PLAN
HELLENISM'S CHALLENGE TO ANCIENT JUDAISM

SUBJECT AND GRADE LEVEL

Hellenism's Challenge to Ancient Judaism; 9th Grade

AUTHOR(S)

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ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

Hellenism represented a major challenge to the cohesiveness of the Jewish community in ancient Palestine.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S)

- What is Hellenism?
- Who were the religious authorities in the Jewish community?
- What was the Sanhedrin?
- What were aspects of cultural diffusion in the Mediterranean world during this era?

OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- Understand the dramatic difficulty faced by Jewish religious authorities in ancient Palestine.
- The history and impact of cultural diffusion.
- The role and function of the Sanhedrin.

ASSESSMENT:

Students will write a paper about how the conflict within the Jewish community regarding Hellenism emerges in the novel *As a Driven Leaf*.

MATERIALS, SUPPLIES AND RESOURCES

Text: *As a Driven Leaf*, powerpoint, art supplies

ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES

- Background information on Hellenism (powerpoint)
- Poster board project that has students create images and text that focuses on a theme of Hellenism (literature, art, philosophy, etc.)
- Presentation of poster board with note-taking
- Background teaching on the Sanhedrin and the Jewish community following the destruction of the 2nd Temple period (powerpoint and discussion)
- Students research key figures on the Sanhedrin and role play a debate about Hellenism from key scenes in *As a Driven Leaf* (what problems did the Rabbis have with Greek society learning?)
- Written reflections about book burning scene in the novel
- Class discussion