

EDUCATOR SUBMITTED LESSON PLAN

HOMELAND

SUBJECT AND GRADE LEVEL

Homeland; 5th Grade (religious school)

AUTHOR(S)

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ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

Israel is the past, present, and future homeland of the Jewish people.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S)

- What is a homeland and why do Jews need one?
- How do Jewish texts reflect the connection?
- How do Jewish people in America demonstrate a connection to Israel as a homeland?

OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- Be able to articulate what "homeland" means to them personally and as a member of the Jewish people
- Be able to retell at least one text (e.g. *Tanakh, siddur*)
- Be able to describe the ways family, ethnicity, nationality, and affiliation to contribute to their connection to the land of Israel
- Be able to define and use essential vocabulary connected to the concept of homeland: *Eretz Yisrael, b'rit, am, medinah, Yerushalayim, beit hamikdah, hatikvah, moledet*

ASSESSMENT:

Students will collaboratively produce four representations of their feelings/connections to Israel as their Jewish homeland. Suggestions: symbols, collage, poem or acrostic, biblical text and illustrations, write a skit.

ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES

- Teacher draws webbing built around the word "homeland" during which a definition is generated by the students; compare/contrast with dictionary definition -suitable for multiple intelligences (visual and interpersonal)
- Jig-saw activities using texts from: *lech-lechah/Genesis/promises* to Abraham,
- Isaac, Jacob/Midrash of 2 brothers at Temple Mount site - with guided questions and vocabulary definitions
- Discussion point about how a Jewish homeland is different from other people's homelands; dual loyalties
- Optional Homework: fill out "scavenger hunt" questionnaire (teacher will need to create scavenger hunt with questions for students to find at home measuring different family connections to Israel ex. Objects, photos, trips etc.) with parents at home
- In class: students participate in creating a bar graph to measure their different family connections to Israel (based on their scavenger hunt answers)