

EDUCATOR SUBMITTED LESSON PLAN
Eretz Yisrael/The Land of Israel

SUBJECT AND GRADE LEVEL

Eretz Yisrael/The Land of Israel: 4th grade

AUTHOR(S)

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ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

Israel is a country rich in history and culture, which is an integral part of our Jewish identities, and our feeling of connectivity to a Jewish homeland

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- Why is the promise of a Jewish homeland so special to the Jewish people?
- How is Israel similar and/or different than our home in the United States?
- What makes us believe that Israel is the Jewish homeland?

OBJECTIVES:

Students will: Be able to identify physical places and their significance as a part of the Jewish homeland

TIME RECOMMENDED:

ASSESSMENT:

- Group written observations
 - Did observations include perceptions that showed an understanding of the locations depicted in the pictures?
 - How personal were the groups' observations and were they able to make a Jewish connection to each of the locations in their pictures?
- Classroom discussion
 - Did you find any of these locations interesting enough to visit someday and if so, why?
 - Has this activity made you feel a stronger connection to Israel as the Jewish homeland?

MATERIALS:

- Pictures of different places located in Israel:
 - Ben Gurion Airport
 - Caesarea
 - Dead Sea (people floating or covered in mud)
 - Eilat (beach, subaquatic observation station)

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MATERIALS (CONTINUED)

- Sea of Galilee
- Haifa (port)
- Israel/Jordan border
- Jerusalem (Ben Gurion airport, the Western Wall, Knesset building, shuk, Dome of the Rock, Yad Vashem)
- Kibbutz
- Masada (people hiking to the top, view from the top)
- Negev desert
- Tel Aviv (cityscape, hotels)
- Paper and Pencils
- Outline map of Israel on mural paper

ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES

- Introduction: Upon entering the classroom, the children will hear soundbites of the following:
 - A Hebrew conversation
 - Modern Israeli music
 - A Hebrew prayer
 - A crowd of people speaking at once, as in a café or the shuk
 - An Arabic conversation
 - A crowd cheering at a sporting event
 - A prayer recited in a Church (poss. Latin) or at a Arabic Mosque
 - An audience singing Hatikvah
- Activity: Create a “map” of Israel using pictures
- Break the class into small groups and give the following instructions:
 - Each group is given a set of pictures to view, observe, identify and create educated guesses about what is depicted; can be landscape, signage, people and inference about any of the above)
 - Give a time frame to work within and ask each group to discuss what they see and to write down five (5) observations, with the understanding that they might not know anything about this place *except* that it is located in Israel
 - When time is up, explain that a clue will be given about each location. The groups will then look through the pictures they have in front of them and decide if they have a picture that fits the clue. If so, they will hold it up so that the others may see it as well.

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ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES(CONTINUED)

- Discussion will start as each group takes a turn to explain about their observations and why they think that the picture fits the clue. Once the correct picture (or pictures) is found to fit the clue, the students will take the picture and paste it onto the outline of the country of Israel, in the approximate place that the pictured location would be found.
- Once all of the pictures are pasted in their spot on the map, it will be affixed to the wall in the classroom so that they can all see what they have accomplished.
- Questions for Discussion:
 - What did you notice first about this picture? Was it the place, the people, the background, etc.?
 - What do you think the significance of this location is? Is it a place of worship, government, tourist attraction, entertainment, etc.?
 - Who do you think the people in the picture are? Are they Jewish? How do you know? What is the difference between two people in the picture?
- Vocabulary used during this lesson:

○ Eretz Yisrael	○ Arab, Palestinian
○ Yerushalayim	○ Desert
○ Hatikvah	○ Masada, fortress
○ Kibbutz, cooperative	○ Shuk
○ Yad Vashem	○ Eilat
○ Knesset	○ Negev
○ Synagogue	○ Haifa
○ Mosque	○ Tel Aviv
	○ Caesarea