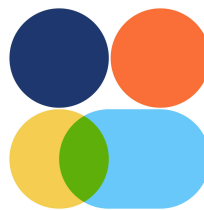


LESSON PLAN



Theme *Arbah Minim* on Sukkot

Grade Level(s)

3rd Grade - 5th Grade

Time of lesson 45 Minutes

Key Ideas

- Sukkot commemorates a time 3,000 years ago when the Jews of Israel lived an agricultural life. Sukkot usually corresponds with the end of the fall harvest.
- We commemorate this by shaking the *lulav and etrog*- made up of *arbah minim*, the 4 species native to the land of Israel. We shake them in 6 directions to demonstrate that God is all around us and to ask for protection; we ask for rain and good growing conditions for our crops (if we are in Israel, or if we have a farm!).

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Know the *arbah minim*
- Understand what the *lulav* and *etrog* represent
- Know why we shake the *lulav* and *etrog* in 6 directions
- Understand that all components of the *lulav* and *etrog* are important to the *mitzvah*

Materials & Resources

- Visual of *arbah minim*
- Text for *arbah minim*
- Name tags of each of the *arbah minim* (enough for as many groups of 4 students as you have)
- Cup of water
- Small potted plant or one big plant for all groups to water

Warm-up and Overview

- As students come in, hand out their name tags which will assign each of them to one of the *arbah minim*. There should be as many groups of 4 as possible. If there is one group of 3, give one of the students two of the *arbah minim*.
- Have students volunteer to share their name tag and find the corresponding picture of their *arbah minim* on the board.
- If available, bring in a *lulav* and *etrog* and allow students to explore each component of the *lulav* and *etrog* with all their senses. Encourage all students to look at, smell and touch all elements, and listen as they shake the *lulav*.

Introduction

- Tell students that today's lesson is about the *arbah minim*, which make up the *lulav* and *etrog*. The *arbah minim* come from the Torah and help us connect this holiday to the time 3,000 years ago when Jews were farmers in Israel; the holiday celebrates the harvest.
- Next, explain that on Sukkot, we shake the *lulav* and *etrog* all together in 6 directions. All components are important for the *mitzvah* and we shake them in 6 directions to symbolize and pray that God will continue to protect us and give us what we need.
- Ask students: If we were farmers, what types of things would we want to pray to God for when we shake the *lulav* and *etrog*?

Specific Accommodations

- Provide individual visuals of the parts of the *lulav* and *etrog* for students that need it.
- Provide multiple choice options for answering questions
- Allow students to turn and talk to a peer instead of sharing with the whole group.

Activity

- Explain that all parts of the *lulav* and *etrog* are important for the *mitzvah* of shaking them. Without one of them, you cannot fulfill the *mitzvah*. Put students into groups of 4 with one of each *arbah minim* in each group (based on the name tags you gave out at the beginning of class).
- Next, the teams of 4 will have to complete an obstacle course to water their plants (crops) located in 6 parts of the room to represent the 6 directions we shake the *lulav* and *etrog*. Each team member must participate in the obstacle course in different ways based on which of the *arbah minim* they were assigned (see *arbah minim* obstacle course jobs in handouts below.)
- Students must work together to make sure all 6 plants are watered.

*Note: If you cannot obtain plants, buckets can be placed in the 6 parts of the room and students can pour from the cups to the buckets.

Specific

Accommodations

- Allow students to swap *arbah minim* tasks if they do not feel comfortable with one of them (i.e. they do not want to be blindfolded)
- If any student has mobility issues, place plants/ water buckets closer to them or at their height so they are able to reach them

Options for Extensions

- If one team finishes more quickly than another, allow them to continue exploring the *lulav* and *etrog* and give them a chance to shake the *lulav* and *etrog*
- Show them the proper way to hold the *lulav* and *etrog* (*pitom* down)
- Allow them to practice saying the bracha for shaking the *lulav* and *etrog*

Options for Remediation

- If students do not understand their role allow them to pair up with another student to complete the task
- Model the task for them so they can see exactly how to do it

Review and Closing

- When all teams have watered all 6 plants/ filled all 6 buckets, bring the class back together and discuss what they observed. Would they have been able to complete the tasks individually or did they need all 4 *arbah minim*? Explain that in order for them to fulfill the *mitzvah* of shaking the *lulav* and *etrog*, they need all 4 components.
- Next, remind students that we shake the *lulav* and *etrog* in 6 directions to symbolize protection and pray for abundance and blessings from God this year. Have students write, think or talk about what they will reflect on when they get a chance to shake the *lulav* and *etrog* this Sukkot.

Specific Accommodations

- Give multiple choices for answering questions
- Allow students to answer in their own way (write, speak orally, tell a peer, tell the teacher, draw)
- Keep visuals up in the front of the class for students that may need an extra reminder of which plant is which
- Color code some worksheets
- Provide a word bank if students need to refresh their memory

Checking for Understanding

- Close the lesson by having students label the *arbah minim* on a worksheet

Arbah Minim- Four Species

Name Tags



Lulav



Arava



Hadas



Etrog

Arbah Minim- 4 Species



Lulav- Date Palm



Arava- Willow Branch



Hadas- Myrtle Leaves



Etrog- Citron

Arbah Minim in the Torah

The commandment regarding the arbah minim is found in the Torah.

Leviticus 23:40 instructs:

וּלְקַחְתֶּם לָכֶם בַּיּוֹם הָרִאשׁוֹן פְּרֵי עֵץ הָדָר כַּפֹּת תְּמָרִים וְעֵנָף עֵץ-עֵבֶת וְעַרְבֵי-נַחַל וּשְׂמַחְתֶּם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם שִׁבְעַת יָמִים:

"On the first day you shall take the product of hadar trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before Adonai your God seven days."



***Arbah Minim* Obstacle Course Jobs**

Lulav: can carry the water but without looking (blindfolded) and cannot pour the water

Arava: can pour the water but only with a blindfold on, and they cannot move once they are handed the water cup (lulav will tell them where they think they should pour from)

Hadas: can refill the water cup after the arava has watered one plant

Etrog: can see, but cannot hold or pour the water; can direct the others on where to go and when to stop/pour

Arbah Minim- Lulav and Etrog

