

Theme: Creation

Week: 5

Learning Outcomes

Students Will:

- Learn the story of Creation
- Understand that Creation/*Bereshiet* is the first Torah portion we read every year
- Identify some of the things God created during Creation

Materials & Resources

- Play Doh/building materials
- Centers materials
- Book: *The Seventh Day* by Deborah Cohen
- Art supplies for creation mural such as:
 - White shapes
 - Black paper
 - Cotton balls
 - Blue paper
 - fish & bird stickers
 - Tin foil
 - Markers
 - Stickers

Arrival/Warm Up (15 min)

By now, students should be familiar with their morning routine. Continue to remain in close proximity to offer any reminders for students, but allow them to go through their morning routine as independently as possible.

Provide Play Doh and other building materials for students to build anything they would like. As you circulate, ask students what they are “creating”.

Specific Accommodations

- If possible, put student’s picture next to their name at the table so they know where to sit even if they cannot recognize their names in print.
- Intentionally include a variety of building blocks with different textures so students with sensory sensitivities can choose the one that feels the best for them.
- Provide models of different things they can create on the table for students that need some help getting started.

Tefilah Time (15 min)

Start by reviewing any *tefilot* that students are having trouble remembering.

Introduce the last *tefilah* of *Tefilah* Time, *Adon Olam*! Explain that *Adon Olam* is often a time for children to go on the *bimah* on Shabbat. Let’s dance it out and get all our wiggles out during *Adon Olam*! Encourage students to get up and move their bodies during *Adon Olam* to prepare their bodies for the rest of the class.

Specific Accommodations

- Use cube chairs, cushions, carpet dots, or hula hoops for students who need support sitting on the floor or for students who need help understanding how to stay in their spot.

Centers (45 min. 15 each)



Center Theme: Hebrew Letters

Center Activity:

Hebrew letters creation! Give students the first letter of their Hebrew name and the different building materials they used during their warm up and have them try to make the Hebrew letter using their Play Doh. If they are done with the first letter of their name, have them continue on to the next letters.

Specific Accommodations:

- Allow some students who need extra time with each letter to simply make the first letter of their name with as many different materials as they can
- Allow students to choose the different materials they engage with

Center Theme: Building

Center Activity: “Creating” Heaven and Earth

Give students legos, blocks, recycled items, etc. and pictures of the different elements of creation. Have them choose one element and try to create it with their building materials.

Specific Accommodations:

- Provide models for students that need a starting point
- Pre-set potential materials with corresponding element (ex. put a handful of green and brown legos next to a picture of land)

Center Theme: Sensory

Center Activity:

Fill two bins side by side. Have one with sensory material to represent land (sand, rice, ripped up pieces of brown and green paper) and one with water. Include in the sensory bins toys, images, or natural items from outside that represent the different parts of creation and have students find and explore them. Have students think about how those items go together. What do they all have in common?

Specific Accommodations:

- Give students a visual list of all the items hidden so they know what they are looking for
- Assign specific items to students so they are not fighting over them

Bracha Spotlight (and snack time, 20 min):

This week, serve grapes and/or grape juice for snack and see if anyone knows the special *bracha* said over grape juice (give them a hint that this is the blessing we say on Shabbat). Explain that one of the most important parts of Creation is when God rests on the 7th day and on that day, we drink grape juice and we say the *borei pri ha'gafen bracha*.

Whole Group Activity (30 min):

Introduce the book by asking students to reflect on all of the activities they have done that day so far. Ask: What did you do with the Play Doh? What kinds of items did you find in the sensory bin at centers?

Help students connect what they were doing with the act of “creating” or “creation” and explain that creating is another way of saying making something that was not there before. Explain that that is what God did at the very beginning of the world!!

Ask students to recall what we learned about the week prior (Torah). Explain that the very first story in the Torah tells us about how the world was created by God.

Read the book: *The Seventh Day* by Deborah Cohen

Throughout the book, point out to students that the book compares God to different kinds of artists (potters, painters, musicians). Explain that now, as a class we will be artists to make our own Creation mural.

Use different materials (listed in the materials list or any others that you have on hand) to create a multi-sensory mural on 7 poster boards that can be hung up in the classroom (one for each day of creation).

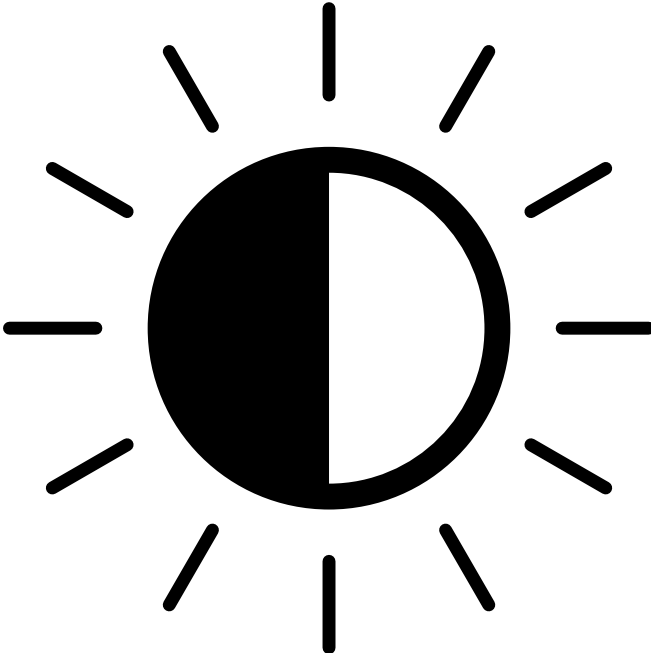
Specific Accommodations:

- Consider assigning students to a designated day depending on how they work together and which materials may be most accessible for them to work with
- Give examples of things that can be included on each mural if students are having trouble coming up with ideas
- Give students the book flipped to their specific day to help with what they should include

Closing/*Lehitraot* (10 min):

- Have each group of students present their day of Creation for the rest of the class (or individually to you if more comfortable that way)
- Finally, sing *Shalom Chaverim* together

Images for Building Center



Darkness and Light



Sky and Sea

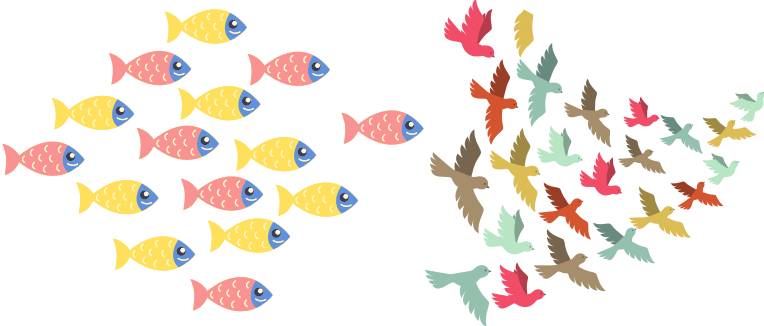


Dry Land



Sun, Moon, and Stars

Images for Building Center



Creatures of Sea and Sky



Land animals and People

Pictures/Items for Sensory Bin

*note: Ideally, include as many of these items as real items as you have available (ex. toy animals, cotton balls for clouds, rocks from outside, tree twigs, etc.) print and laminate images to supplement where you are missing items

