

Theme: Israel

Week: 16

Learning Outcomes

Students Will:

- Know that Israel is the Jewish state
- Understand that Jews have a lot of history in the land of Israel
- Recognize the map and flag of Israel

Materials & Resources

- Blue markers, crayons, etc.
- Sand, glitter, other textured material
- Glue or double-sided tape
- Building materials
- Book: Sammy The Spider's First Trip to Israel by Sylvia Rauss

Arrival/Warm Up (15 min)

Have a black and white version of the Israeli flag for each student. Provide different blue markers, crayons, etc. for students to use to color in the flag. Have a model for them to see.

Specific Accommodations

- If possible, put student picture next to their name at the table so they know where to sit even if they cannot recognize their names in print.

Tefilah Time (15 min)

Share that a lot of our *tefilot* connect us back to the land of Israel. Explain that during certain prayers we even make sure to face our bodies towards the direction of Jerusalem. Show students which direction that is and have them do their *amidah* prayer in that direction

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: Yisrael

Have the Hebrew letters for Israel out in different forms (edible *Aleph Bet*, regular letters, magnetic). Encourage students to explore the letters and try stretching the word so that they can hear each letter sound individually.

Specific Accommodations:

- Have some students focus on the *yud* only

Center Theme: Art/Sensory

Center Activity: Sensory Map of Israel

Have an outline of the map of Israel for each student. Have them trace the map with a glue stick then add glitter, sand or any other textured material to the page to stick onto the glue.

Specific Accommodations:

- Use double-sided tape instead of glue and have the tape already out in the outline of Israel

Center Theme: Building

Center Activity: Building The Kotel

Provide pictures of the Kotel along with a variety of building materials. Have students build the kotel either as a group or individually depending on the type of materials available

Specific Accommodations:

- Create your own model

Bracha Spotlight (and snack time, 20 min):

Bring Bisli or Bamba (note your school's nut policy!). Explain that these are popular snacks in Israel. Show them that these snacks are like potato chips so we say *shehakol*.

Whole Group Activity (30 min):

Read the book: Sammy Spider's First Trip to Israel by Sylvia Rauss.

After reading the book, ask students what language they speak in Israel. Have students share which Hebrew words they already know? Give them a hint that there are some they say every time they are in class. Point out the word "*shalom*" that Sammy learned in the book and have students share the 3 meanings of the word.

Play: *Shalom, Shalom, Shalom* (inspired by red light/green light):

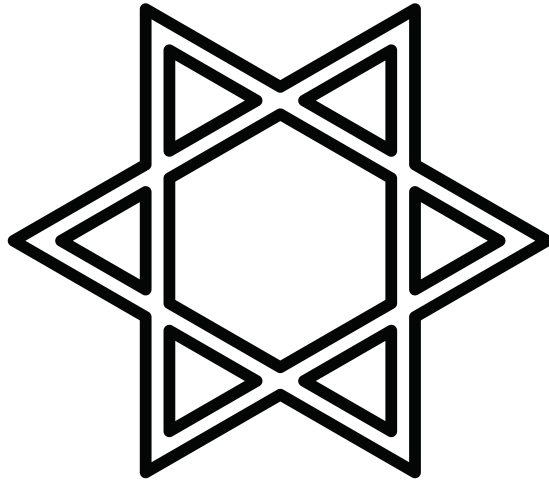
- Have students line up on one side of the room and a teacher on the other side.
- Hold up signs with different symbols and say "*shalom*".
- When you hold up the "*shalom* = hi" sign, students can walk forward.
- When you hold up the "*shalom* = bye" sign, students should stop.
- When you hold up the *shalom* = peace sign, students must shake hands or hold up a peace sign to the person next to them.

Specific Accommodations:

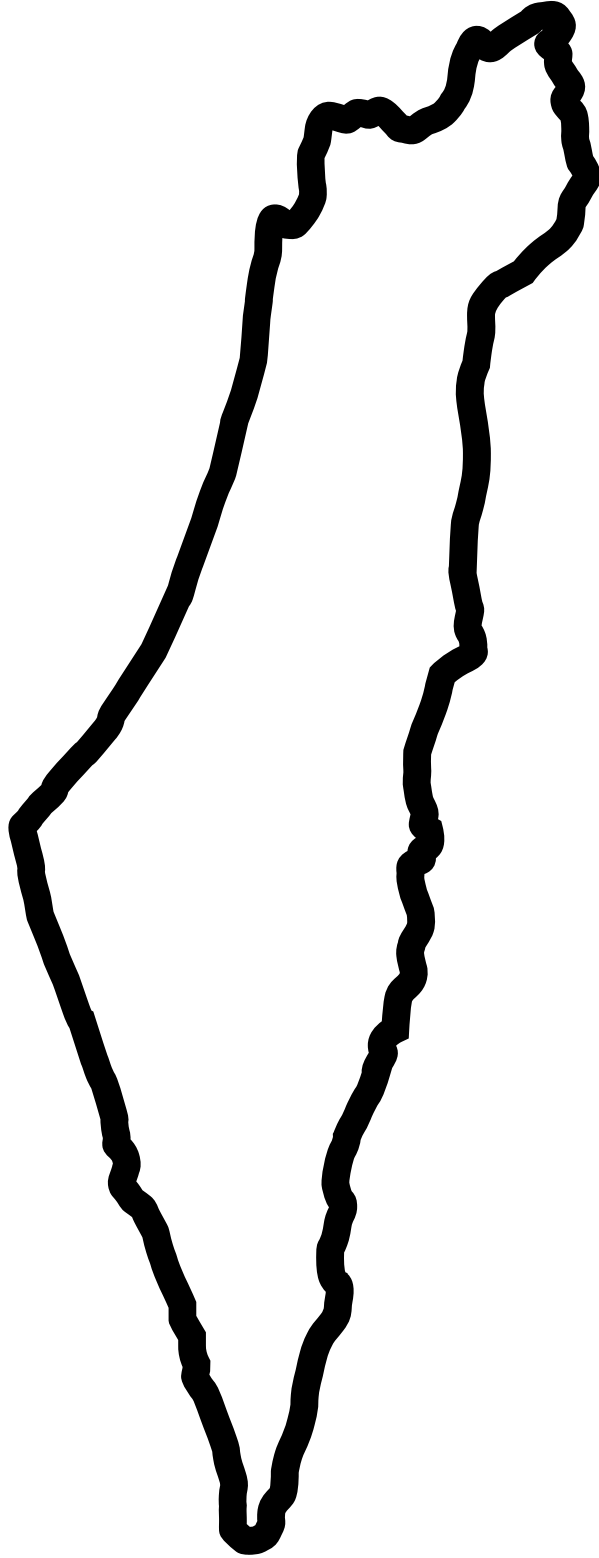
- Have students point to pictures to answer questions
- Practice what to do with the three different "*shalom*" meanings before playing the game

Closing/*Lehitraot* (10 min):

- Ask students what they would most like to see or do if they visited Israel.
- Finally, sing *Shalom Chaverim* together



Map of Israel



The Kotel



Shalom!



Shalom!



Shalom!

