

Theme: Shavuot

Week: 19

Learning Outcomes

Students Will:

- Know that Shavuot celebrates the Israelites receiving the Torah
- Know what Har Sinai is

Materials & Resources

- Building Materials
- Toothpicks
- Fabric
- Popsicle Sticks (2 per student)
- Hebrew letter stickers
- Markers, crayons, etc.
- Cotton balls
- Book: [Sammy Spider's First Shavuot](#)

Arrival/Warm Up (15 min)

Put out clay, kinetic sand, or Play Doh. Have students build mountains with it and provide little signs made out of paper and toothpicks that say "Har Sinai" for them to put in their mountains.

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.
- Allow students to draw their mountains if they prefer

Tefilah Time (15 min)

Explain that today we will be learning about the holiday of Shavuot. Tell students that on Shavuot we celebrate receiving the Torah from God. Include the *Torah Torah* song in Tefilah time today and give out plush Torah's for students to hold as they march to the song.

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
- allow students to march in place or from their seat if they do not want to get up
- give some students the job of waiting and "kissing" the Torah while others march

Centers (45 min. 15 each)



Center Theme: Hebrew Letters

Center Activity: Letter Hay Mountains

Distribute print-outs of the letter *hay* in plain black and white. Explain to students that *hay* makes the hhh sound and that the word for mountain in Hebrew is *har*. Have students transform their *hay* into a mountain on their page. Challenge them to add to the way the letter is already drawn to create their mountain.

Specific Accommodations:

- If students would prefer, allow them to build their mountain out of clay or sand and then add the letter *hay* in a different way (by tracing it into the side or using a Hebrew letter magnet to imprint it onto the mountain)

Center Theme: Art

Center Activity: Make your own Fabric Torah

Have students create their own Torahs using popsicle sticks and fabric (an old sheet cut up into pieces, felt, or any kind of fabric will do). Have students glue a popsicle stick on either side of the fabric. Then have them stick Hebrew letter stickers inside the fabric to represent the Hebrew stories in the Torah. Finally, have them roll up their Torah scrolls and tie a ribbon around their Torah.

Specific Accommodations:

- Pre-glue the fabric onto the popsicle stick
- Allow some students to trace letters or just color on their fabric instead of using stickers
- Provide an example that you have already made

Center Theme: Building/Pretend play

Center Activity: Moses and the 10 Commandments/Torah

Have students recreate the scene from *Har Sinai* that they heard the week prior. Provide different building materials, toy action figures, legos, etc. and have them work together to create the scene that includes Moses on the mountain and the Israelites on the ground.

Specific Accommodations:

- Provide pictures to give student inspiration of what they should build
- Allow students to create their own or work together to make one big scene depending on students' needs

Bracha Spotlight (and snack time, 20 min):

Explain that on Shavuot, we eat dairy! Give a dairy snack of your choice (string cheese, yogurt, ice cream). You will say the *shehakol bracha*.

Whole Group Activity (30 min):

Read the book: Sammy Spider's First Shavuot

Ask students why they think we celebrate receiving the Torah. How does having the Torah help us be better people in our community?

Play "Get Moses Up Mt. Sinai"

Have a play mountain or a drawing of a mountain on a poster or white board and 2 little Moses icons. Split the class into 2 groups and have the groups compete to get Moses "up" the mountain to receive the 10 Commandments. Students will complete 3 tasks. When they complete one, Moses moves up one step.

- Task 1: Mt. Sinai Cup Stack. Students have to stack 10-15 cups into a "mountain". Whoever stacks them faster moves their Moses up to step 2.
- Task 2: Dairy Scoop. Students have one minute to use a spoon to bring as many cotton balls as possible from one side of the classroom to place in an empty yogurt container on the other side of the room. The team with the most cotton balls at the end of the minute moves their Moses up another step.
- Task 3: Human Torah Scroll Roll Up. One student is the Torah and the others have to "roll up" streamers around them as fast as they can. Whoever finishes their streamers first moves to the top of the mountain.

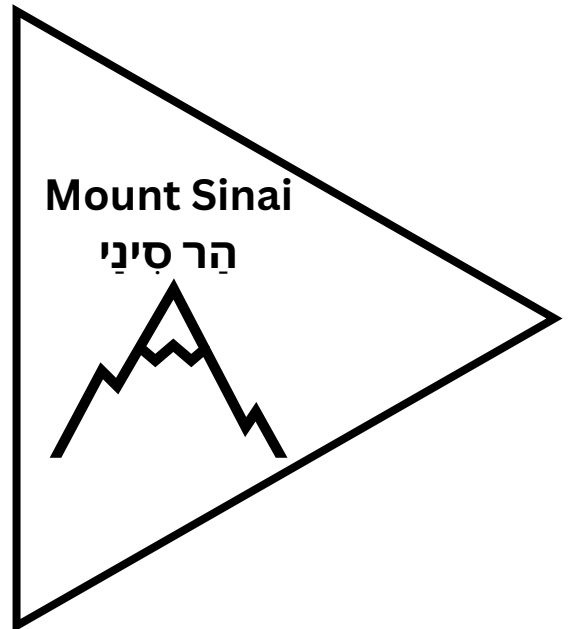
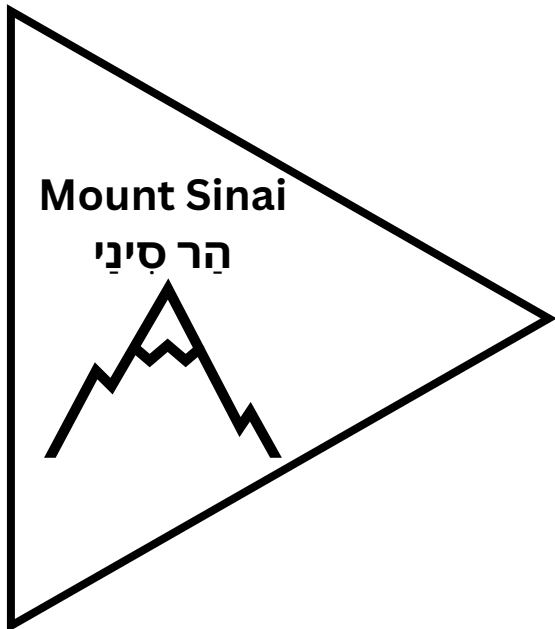
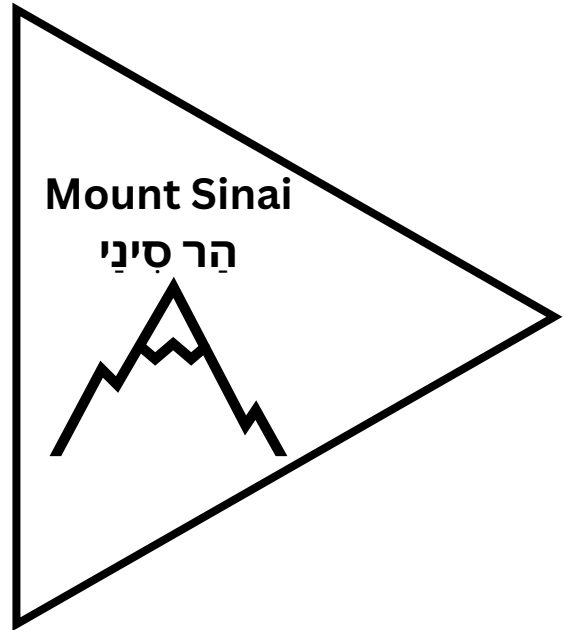
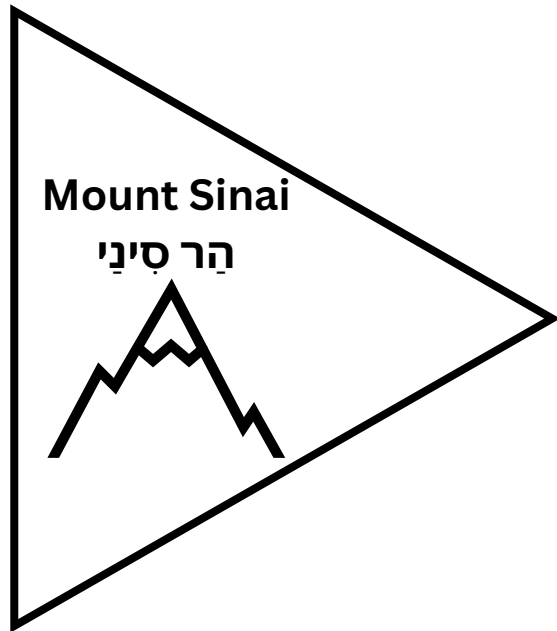
Specific Accommodations:

- If students do not do well with competition, play the game as a whole class (one team)
- Allow some students to carry the cotton balls in their hands instead of on a spoon

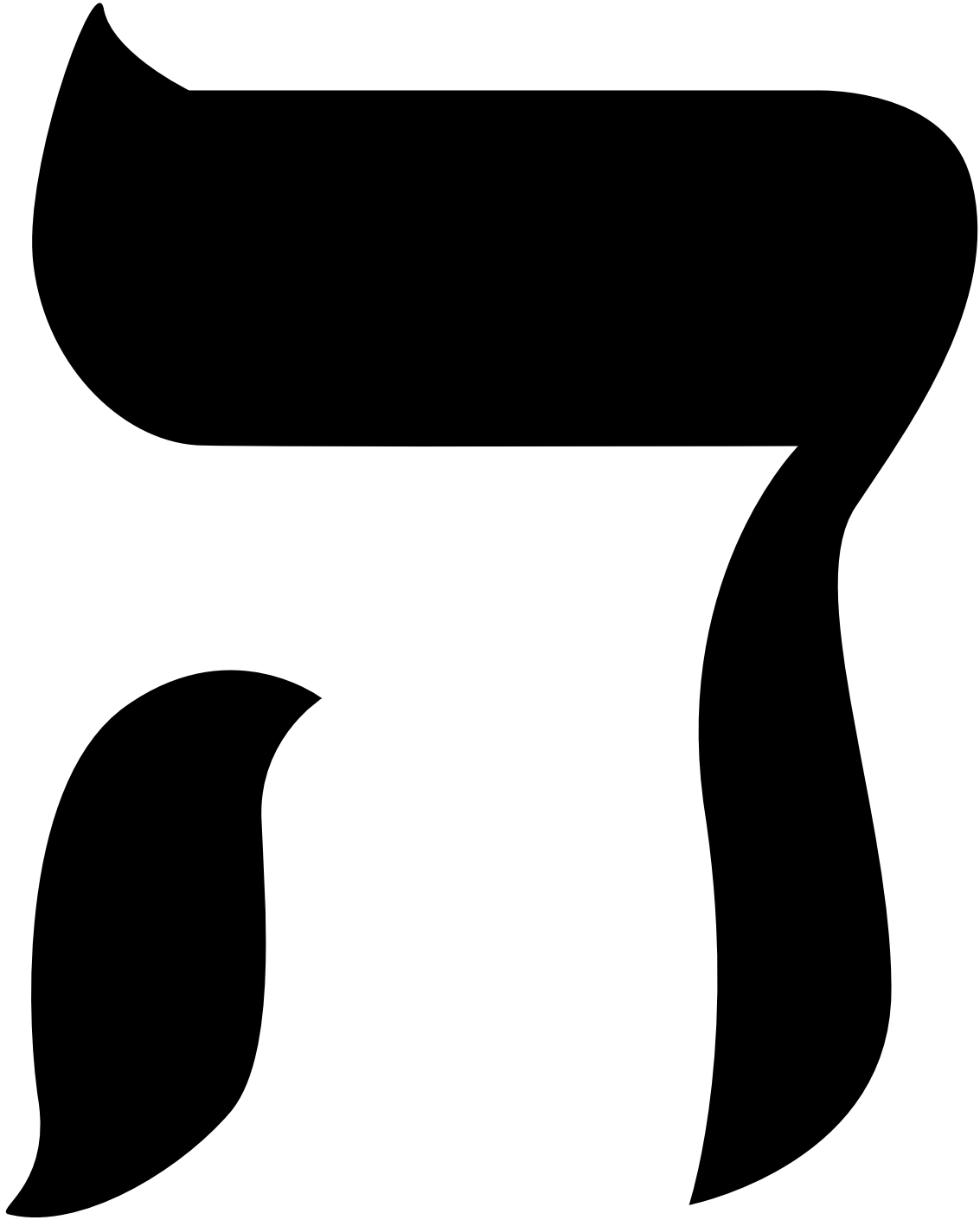
Closing/*Lehitraot* (10 min):

- Have students share why they think receiving the Torah is special enough to celebrate on Shavuot.
- Finally, sing *Shalom Chaverim* together

Har Sinai Flags



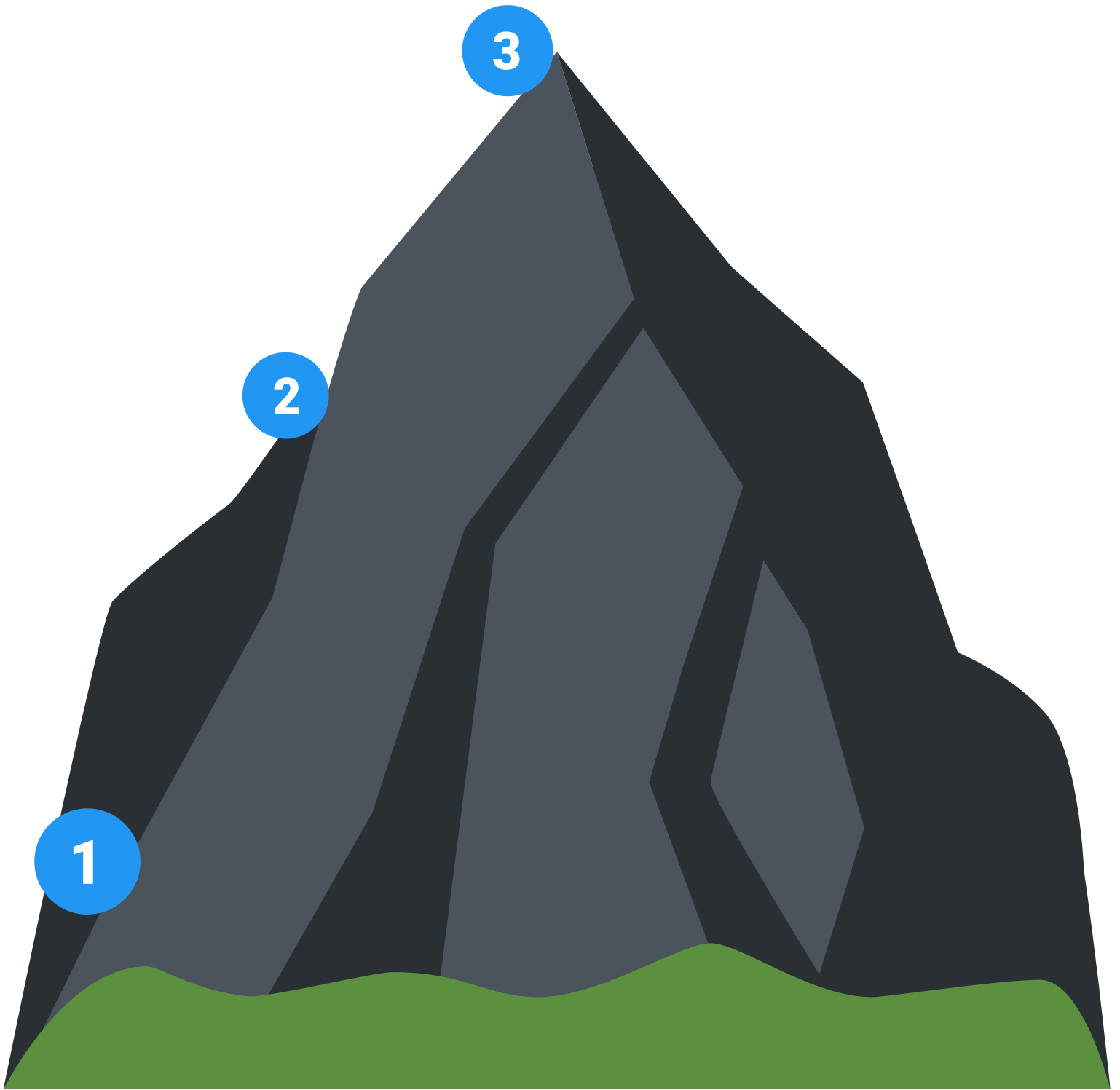
Hay Mountain Craft



Building Center Pictures for Inspiration



Get Moses Up the Mountain!



Get Moses Up the Mountain!

