

Theme: Ritual Items

Week: 20

## Learning Outcomes

Students Will:

- Identify important ritual items used regularly in prayer in Judaism
- Know what those items represent

## Materials & Resources

- Yarn or string
- Talit, Kippah, Tefilin, Mezuzah
- Plain kippot
- Eye mask/covering
- Fabric Markers or Stickers
- Tissue box painted brown
- Non-ritual items for mystery box (any daily item such as crayon, pencil, toy, etc.)
- Ritual items or pictures of items for box

## Arrival/Warm Up (15 min)

Put out bunches of string or yarn and paper with outline of a *talit*. Allow students to choose if they'd like to tie knots like "*tzitzit*" or color a *talit*.

## 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.
- Provide visual of *tzitzit*

## Tefilah Time (15 min)

Show students that today's class is all about *tefilot* because we are learning all about 3 items some people wear during prayer to help them feel closer to God. If possible, bring in and pass around a *kippah*, *tallit*, and *tefilin*. Let students try them on and ask them if they have ever seen anyone in their family wear any of these items.

## 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:** Letters of the Shema

Have the letters “*shin*” “*mem*” and “*hay*” out for students to explore. Have them stretch the word so they can hear which sounds each make. Show them pictures of different ritual items that have “*shin*” on it and have them find the *shin* in each of them.

**Specific Accommodations:**

- Highlight the *shin* on the visual of *mezuzot* and *tefillin* so the *shin* is easier to find
- Include the *shema* visual prayer to help them remember how to say the *shema*

**Center Theme:** Art

**Center Activity:** Make your own *kippah*

Provide fabric markers and plain, unlined, *kippot* and have students decorate their own *kippot*.

**Specific Accommodations:**

- Include Hebrew letter stickers if students would prefer decorating using stickers

**Center Theme:** Sensory

**Center Activity:** What’s in the Tefillin Box?

Make a “mystery box” out of an empty tissue box. Paint it brown and put a *shin* on it. Inside, fill the box with sand or dry rice and place different items or pictures both related to or unrelated to Jewish rituals. Have students stick their hands in and pull out different items. Have them sort the items they find into “ritual items” or “not ritual items”.

**Specific Accommodations:**

- Allow students to look inside before pulling something out if feeling without seeing is too overwhelming
- Use visual for sorting

## Bracha Spotlight (and snack time, 20 min):

Snack: Nilla wafers or oreos because they are in the shape of kippot! Say the *mezonot bracha*.

## Whole Group Activity (30 min):

Start the whole group activity by bringing out the ritual items (*talit*, *tefilin*, *kippah*, and *mezuzah*). Give short explanations for each of them.

- *Talit* - The *talit* is a prayer shawl some Jews wear when they pray to remind them of the commandments God gave us.
- *Tefilin* - *Tefilin* are black leather boxes that have the *shema* in them that some people wear on their head and arm during weekday prayer.
- *Kippah* - The *kippah* is a special head covering that reminds us that God is always above us
- *Mezuzah* - The *mezuzah* is a little box that has the *shema* in it that Jews place on the doorposts of their homes to show the world that they are proud to be Jewish.

Play “Pin the Ritual Item on the Person”: Have a big poster with a picture of a person and laminated versions of the *talit*, *tefilin*, and *kippah*. Place an eye mask/eye cover on students and then have them try to stick the different items on the right body part of the picture.

Play “Freeze Dance”: Play Hebrew music. Every time you pause the music, say one of the ritual items. When you say them, students must do the following actions:

- *Talit* - arms out to the side
- *Tefilin* - point to arm and forehead
- *Kippah* - place hand on the head
- *Mezuzah* - Point to the door

## Specific Accommodations:

- Use visuals for the freeze dance game so that when you are saying the ritual item, you are also showing a visual to help students remember the action
- Allow students to close their eyes instead of using an eye mask/eye cover.

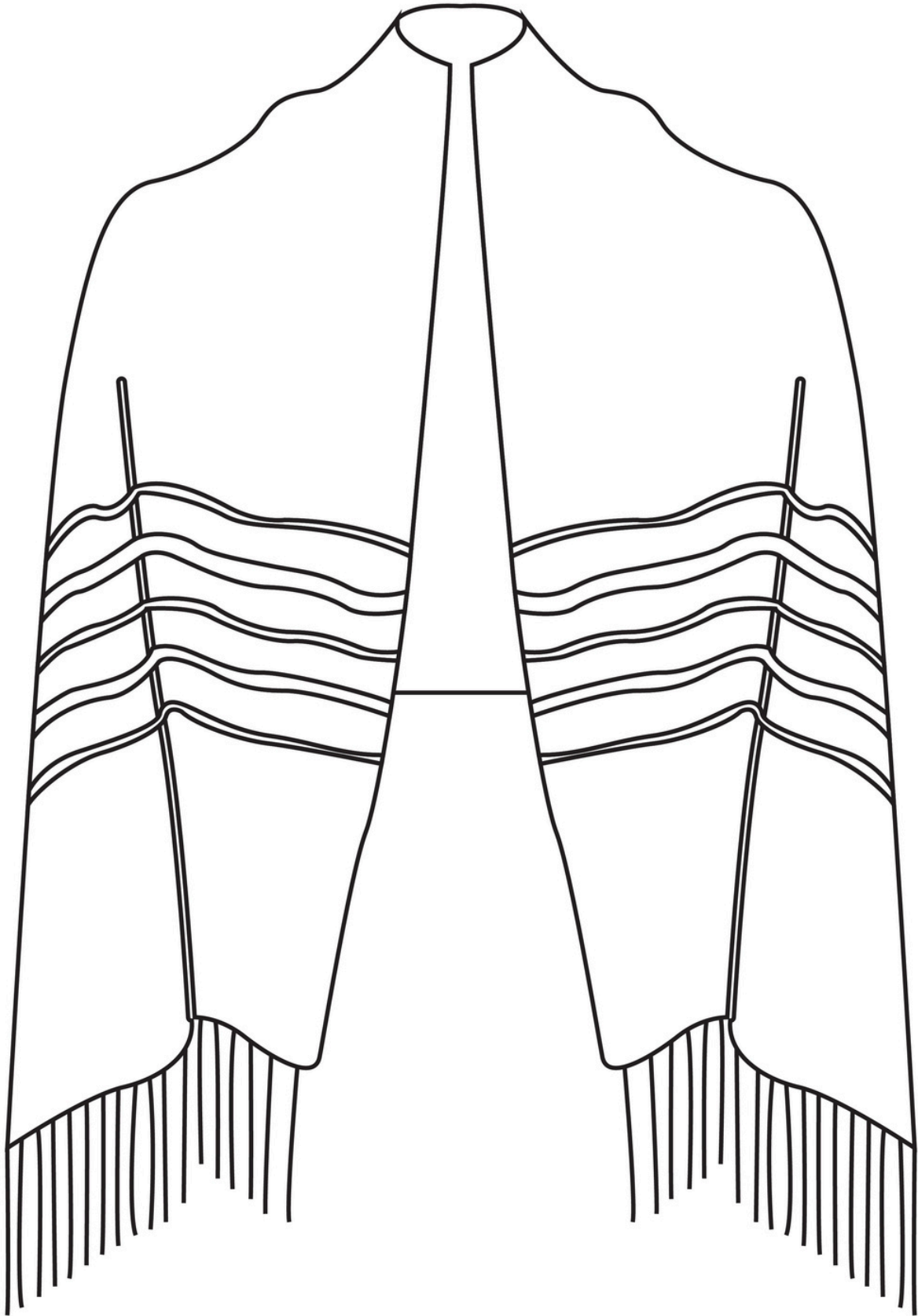
## Closing/*Lehitraot* (10 min):

- Ask students to share why wearing one of these items might be special
- Finally, sing *Shalom Chaverim* together

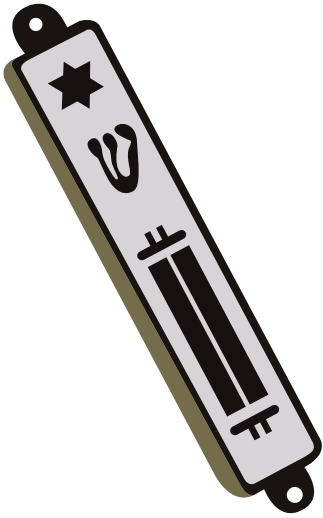
# Tzitzit



# Talit



Find the Shin

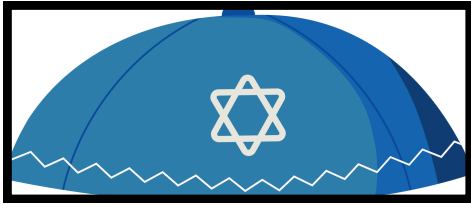


Ritual Item

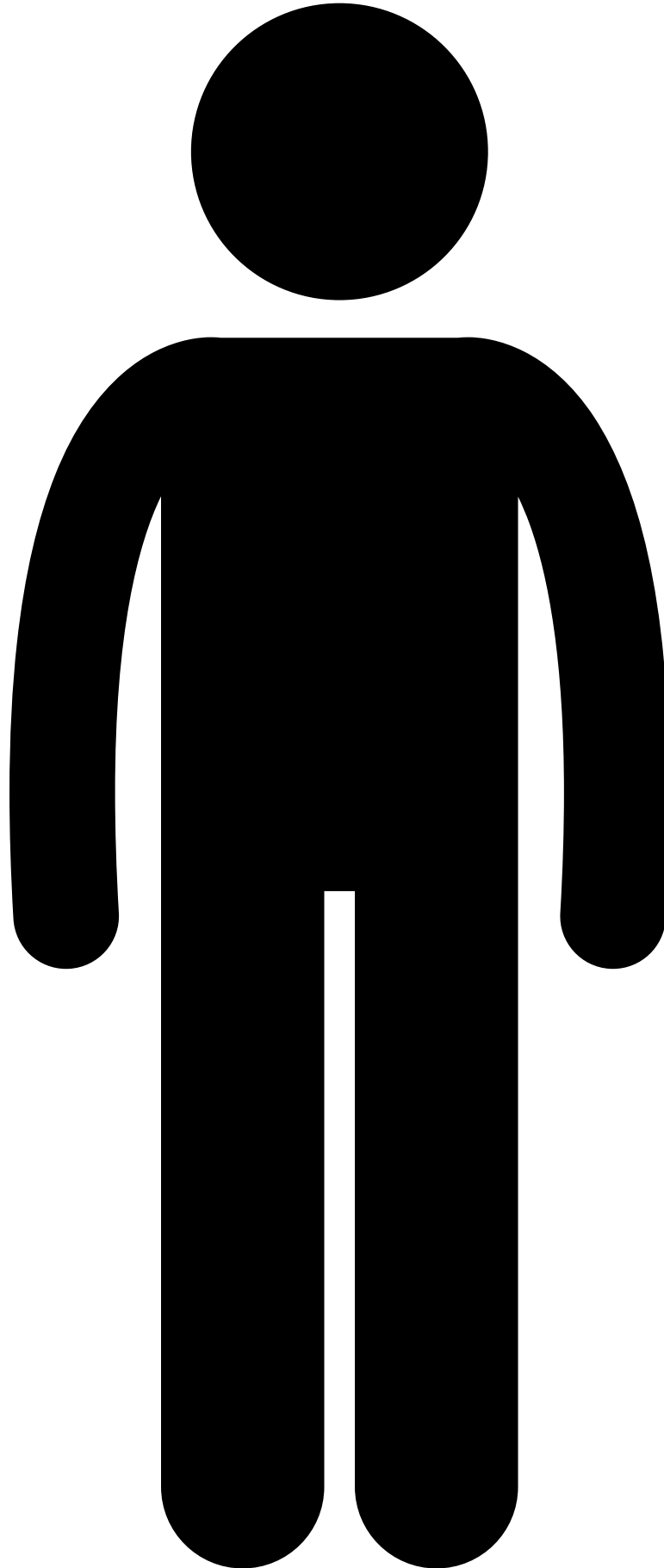


Not a Ritual Item

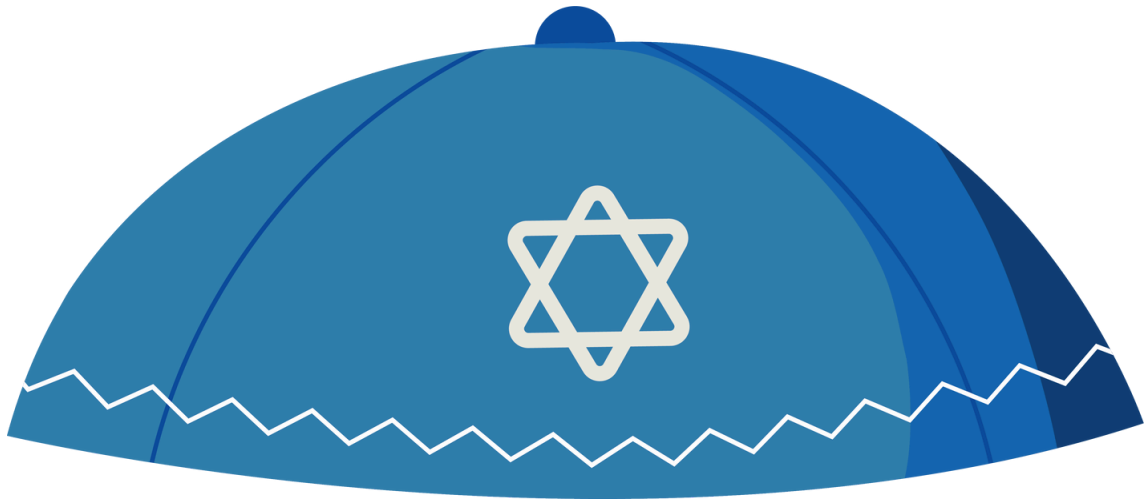




Pin the Ritual Item on the Person



# Pin the Ritual Item on the Person



# Pin the Ritual Item on the Person

