

Kitah Alef

High Holy Days

Make Rosh Hashanah cards. Learn "L'Shana Tova" Eat apples, honey and round bread. Blessings (especially bread). Birthday of the world
Saying sorry - how can we improve ourselves.

Succot

Make model succah each. Visit succah. What will they find in it?

Simchat Torah

Make a flag and talk about suitable decoration. Send note telling parents when service is and to bring flags!!

Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom Ha Shoah is always in the Pesach holiday)

Recollection of a sad personal experiences by children. Read the first part and the last part the poem by Batsheva Degan

Tu B'Shvat

Try to eat 15 different fruits. Tree mural -whole class working together.
Read Sammy Spider's first Tu B'shvat

Purim

Make masks and /or greggars. Story of Esther with dressing up clothes.
What happens in synagogue. Encourage children to go to service - issue invitations to parents - wearing their masks.

Pesach

Symbols of Pesach - make a Moses in bulrushes plate using cress seeds to use at own Seder. Sing first Question.

Yom Hatzmaut

Look at pictures of Israel. Talk about children their age in Israel - going to school , clothes (climate), eat some things from Israel

Lag B'Omer

Children have their first hair cut in some cultures

Shavout

Mount Sinai and Giving of 10 Commandments. Historically start of education. One tradition is to make edible letters(Hebrew) and dip them in honey and eat.

Kitah Bet

Using Holy Days , Holy Ways

Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom Ha Shoah is always in the Pesach holiday)

Present a picture showing sadness and /or the picture of children playing.Talk about them. Read the poem by Batsheva Degan.

Kitah Gimmel

Where possible tell a Biblical story connected to the festival

High Holy Days

Abraham's "sacrifice" of Isaac.

Forgiveness for making the Golden Calf. "Sedrah Scenes" - Ki tissa

Jonah and the fish

Look at shofar. Learn calls.

Succot

Wondering in the wilderness.

Look at Lulav. How it is made up. How to shake it.

Visit Succah

Simchat Torah

Death of Moses - Creation the two readings which end and start the Torah.

End of Torah reading and starting again. Make individual Torah and illustrate with a story from the Bible.

Chanukah

Story of Chanukah as found in the Book of Macabees.

Learn blessing over Candles and sing Moaz Tzur

Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom Ha Shoah is always in the Pesach holiday)

Some brief background information about the ghetto before you read the story.

Read the story of Chika - the dog of the Ghetto.

Tu B'Shvat

Plant a cutting each in a pot. Importance of trees - why we need them. Importance of planting trees in Israel. Frieze of English and Israeli trees.

Purim

Story of Book of Esther.

Look at some Megillot

Pesach

Story of Moses. Concentrate on period from the Passover to arriving at the Sea of Reeds and 1st person entering the water.

Learn all 4 questions

Yom Hatzmaut

Story about King David .

Link with topic on Israel.

Lag B'omer

David and Jonathan (arrows!)

Shavout

Story of Ruth. Family loyalty.

Kitah Dalet

Concrete and more abstract images of the festivals.

High Holy Days

Make cards with Hebrew calendar of the Ten Days. Write a Resolution on each day - one saying sorry and one promise. Take them home and try to keep them throughout the 10 days. Include the words Selichot, Rosh Hashanah, 10 Days, Yom Kippur. Explain what all of them mean. Why do we need 10 days? New Years Resolutions, saying sorry.

Succot

Visit Succah

Look at Lulav and etrog. Learn blessing when they are shaken.

Look at the Harvest aspects of the festival (biblical and modern), the need for rain.

Simchat Torah

Ending and beginnings, what else has endings and beginnings.

Look at Torah in detail , how is it made.

Chanukah

Make Chanukiah out of non-firing clay. Learn blessings and Moaz Tzur

Seasonal meaning of the festival - light /darkness

Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom Ha Shoah is always in the Pesach holiday)

"Today I shall read you a true story about how a group of Jews celebrated Pesach in a concentration camp"

Tu B'Shvat

J.N.F. Find out what they are doing. Get Information from them and use it in the lesson.

Purim

Purim story from the different characters angle. Who was good/evil is it that simple?

Pesach

The number 4 . Revise 4 Questions What else is 4 .What other numbers are important?

Look at the 10 plagues.

Make china Seder plate

Yom Hatzmaut

Look at State of Israel. Why it was created . Look at its neighbours. How can we get on with our neighbours.

Lag B'omer

Picnics, arrows

Shavout

Tie up with topic on 10 Commandments. Tablets of stone

Kitah Hay

Study festivals by looking at different symbols used

High Holy Days

The ideas of round; white; apple and honey; Tashlik; book of Life; shofar, Autumn- cycle of the seasons, start of school year, new clothes.

Succot

The idea of booths, lulav, etrog, How to build a Succah, rules governing it
Visit Succah

Simchat Torah

Walking round synagogue 7 times, blessing children collectively, beginnings and endings
Talk about Chattan/Kallat Torah and Chatan/Kallat Bereishit.

Chanukah

Miracles, light, latkas, shamus, sevivon, chanukiah

Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom Ha Shoah is always in the Pesach holiday)

"The lady with the Stamps" Design own stamps which show positive attributes.

Tu B'Shvat

Look at other tree symbols e.g. tree of life, tree of knowledge, family tree.
Make a collage using "real" Materials.

Purim

"Lots", hamantashen, pretending, making, noise in syn, dressing up, mishloach manot (sending presents to each other) and mattanot ha-evyonim (gifts to the poor)

Pesach

Spring, matzah, seder plate objects etc Kushrut for Pesach

Yom Hatzmaut

The Israeli flag, Magen David, Menorah

Lag B'omer

Counting of the Omer. Make an Omer counter. Connect with topic on the Jewish year.

Shavuot

dairy produce, Torah Shavout in the days of the Temple. Procession of First Fruits

Kitah Vav

Study at the festival by looking at the different names given to them

High Holy Days

Rosh Hashanah (New Year), Yom Ha Din (Day of Judgment), Yom Ha Zikaron (Day of Memorial), Yom Teruah (Day of Shofar blowing)

Shabbat Shuvah (Shabbat of Returning) Why these names? What does it reflect.

Food .. apple and honey, honey cake, round challot

No food/fasting

Succot

Visit Succah

One of the Harvest / pilgrim Festivals, Zeman Simhatenu (Season of Our Joy)

Fruit and veg Rules on the Etrog use. (Succot/Simchat Torah Anthology p34/35)

Simchat

Rejoicing with the Torah. Shemini Atzeret. The prayer for rain - Change the words at the end of the 1st line 2nd paragraph of the Amidah

Chanukah

Dedication - festival of Lights

Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom Ha Shoah is always in the Pesach holiday)

Look at the drawings. Show and tell. Light 6 candles "we light these candles to remember the many many Jews who were killed in the Shoah

Tu B'Shvat

Fifteenth of Shevat, Rosh Ha Shanah le Ilanot (New Year for the trees)

Food.... Eat 15 fruits. Have a Tu B'Shvat Seder

Purim

Feasts of Lots, day before is the Fast of Esther

Hamantashen

Pesach

Hag Ha Pesach (Festival of the Pascal Sacrifice) Hag Ha Matzot (Festival of Matzah)

Food .. Learn about Matzah and how to make it. Go to synagogue and make some matzah.

Yom Hatzmaut

Look at Israel in detail as part of their JS syllabus

Israel Independence Day and how it is celebrated in Israel.

Lag B'omer

How they celebrate in Israeli Schools

Shavuot

Feast of Weeks, Yom Ha Bikkurim (Festival of the first fruits, Hag ha Katizar (Festival of the Harvest), Zeman Mattan Toratenu (The time of giving of the Torah)

Kitah Zayin

High Holy Days

Jonah drama - discussion. Why do we read it? Comparison Ninevah with non- Jewish world.

Are the HHDays important to them, what they will find in the Rosh Hashanah service as they will be in the main part of the service.

Discuss fasting on YK. Talk about Yizkor

Succot

Visit Succah

Blessings in the Succah.

Extending hospitality to strangers, homelessness , The Fathers and the Mothers as part of the Succah.

Simchat Torah

Rejoicing with the Torah. Shemini Atzeret. The prayer for rain - Change the words at the end of the 1st line 2nd paragraph of the Amidah

Chanukah

Poster/frieze of Maccabees in Battle or Hannah and her sons. Discuss not bowing down before idols. Why is the story of Chanukah relevant today.

Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom Ha Shoah is always in the Pesach holiday)

"With a number on my arm"

Tu B'Shvat

Prepare an assembly on Tu B'shvat.

Purim

Discuss courage and personal sacrifice. Use this as a bases for own Purim Spiel

Pesach

Review blessings and Ma Nishtanah. Discuss slavery and freedom, respect for human beings. As part of class work on the Haggadah.

Yom Hatzmaut

Discuss different parts of the History of Israel. Present day issues. Their connection with the state.

Lag B'omer

Shavout

Read and discuss 10 Commandments. Story of Ruth and the idea of Conversion

B'nei Mitzvah

High Holy Days

Discuss Tashlik and perform the ceremony in the brook.

Talk about Yizkor.

Encourage them to stay all day in synagogue.

Theme of teshuvah -tefilah - Tzedakah

Succot

Sleep over in the Succah at the synagogue

Simchat Torah

Endings and Beginnings. Discuss their individual portions with parents.

Chanukah

The miracle and what it really means.

Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom Ha Shoah is always in the Pesach holiday)

"Andja the fighter against hunger"

Tu B'Shvat

Global warning/ecology

Purim

Customs from around the world Mitzvah

Pesach

Different customs they do at home at their Seder leading to different customs around the world. Write own Hagaddah or something which could be added to their own Seder.

Mitzvah Shoah info. TV in Israel given to a whole day of Shoah programmes -

what would they put on TV

Mitzvah Israel Simulation game

Shavout

Talmud Torah - theme of study - Mimonades After Bar Mitzvah what does Torah mean in our lives.

Mitzvah Rabbi Akkiva, Bar Kochba