



An Introduction to the Jewish Calendar

Submitted by: *Talia Rubin*

Subject Area: Jewish Living and Identity

Target Age Group: 2nd Grade

Lesson Objective:

This lesson is meant introduce the concepts of the Jewish Calendar to young students. They need to know very little about the concepts to be able to participate successfully in this lesson. It's both hands on, and verbal, so that it appeals to different learning styles.

Summary:

Discussion on the Background of the Jewish Calendar:

Why do Jews have a calendar different from everyone else?

- Because when we received the Torah at Mount Sinai we started counted time our own special way.
- The clocks in the sky tell us the time of the Hebrew year: the sun shows us the seasons of the year, and the moon tells us the time of the Jewish month and when all the Jewish holidays arrive.
- The Hebrew calendar is VERY old, we can count it back over 5700 years, when God created the world
- The 12 Jewish Months: Tishre, Heshvan, Kislev, Tevet, Shvat, Adar, Nisan, Iyar, Sivan, Tammuz, Av, Elul

Read page 13 in “Jewish Holiday Fun” by Judith Hoffman Corwin

Complete Word Search

Workbook (“Shalom Alef Bet- A Pre-Primer for Shalom Uvrachah”): complete approximately 5 pages

Quiz Bowl Review (directions below)



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Essential Questions:

- Why do Jews have a calendar different from everyone else?
- What are the months of the Hebrew calendar?

Vocabulary/Terms (students should be able to identify at the end of the lesson):

- (Hebrew months, above)
- Chodesh: “month”
- Z'man: “time”

Questions for Discussion:

- Why do Jews have a calendar different from everyone else?
- What are the months of the Hebrew calendar?

Supplies:

- Workbook: “Shalom Alef Bet- A Pre-Primer for Shalom Uvrachah” by Pearl Tarnor
- Word Search on the Jewish Months
- A book regarding the Jewish Calendar to fill time if needed

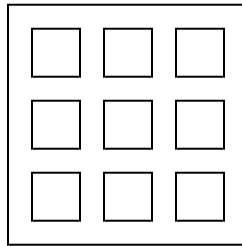


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- Quiz Bowl Review Game:

Directions: Take a large piece of paper or foam core and make 9 pockets in it (laid out in a similar fashion to “Tick-tack-toe”) Place a piece of one of the two sides of Velcro on each pocket. This board will be reused every time the review game is played. Next, for each class, make nine note cards pertaining to the material taught that day, and place them face-down in the pockets. Cut out 4 X’s and 4 O’s, then place the remaining side of the Velcro on the backside of each to secure to the pieces on the game board as they are won (these pieces will also be reused during each game). The class should be divided into 2 teams, and the first team to get tick-tack-toe with the correct answers wins!



For further reference, please click on the following link:

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/calendar.html>