

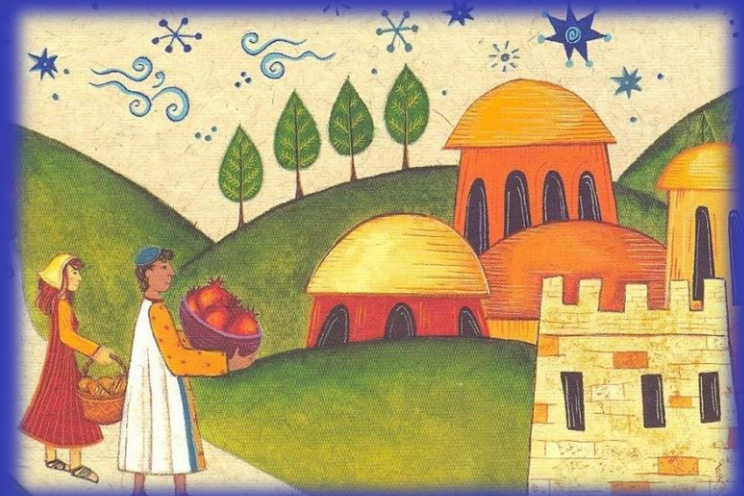
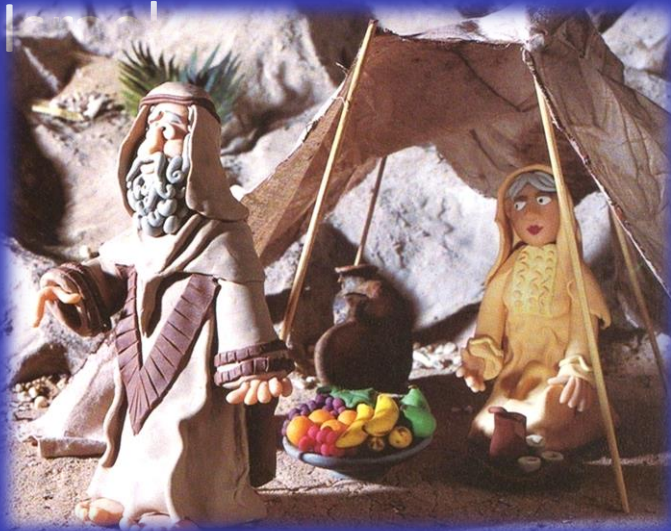
Investigating Israel: *The How's and Why's of Introducing Israel to Young Children and Their Families*



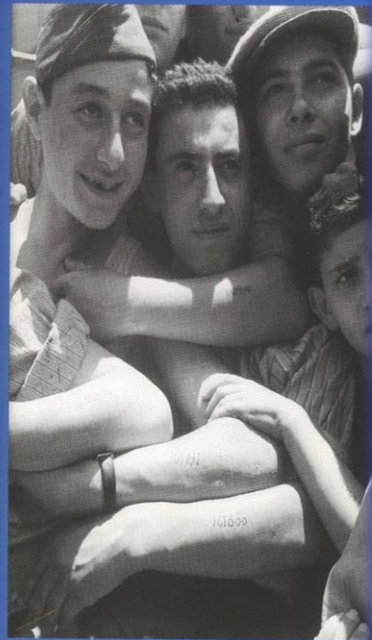
Yom Ha-Atzmaut- Israel's Independence Day
Monday evening, May 9th and Tuesday, May 10th 2011

Why Investigate Israel?

- Majority of Jewish holidays revolve around Israel
- Most of the stories/narratives of the Bible take place in Israel



More Reasons for Exploring Israel



זמא וליכנו קומסיות לארצנו

- Approximately ½ of world's Jewish population resides in Israel
- Israel provides a home and safe haven for Jews around the world

Additional Reasons for Exploring Israel



רחם נא יי אלהינו
על ישראל עמו, ועל ירושלים עירך

ועל ציון מושבן כבודך

ועל מלכות בית דוד קשיחה, ועל הכות הקדול הקדוש
שנתקבא לעמו עליו. אלהינו אלהינו. הענינו וננינו. פה נבטח

Gather us in peace from the four
corners of the earth, and bring us
proudly to our land

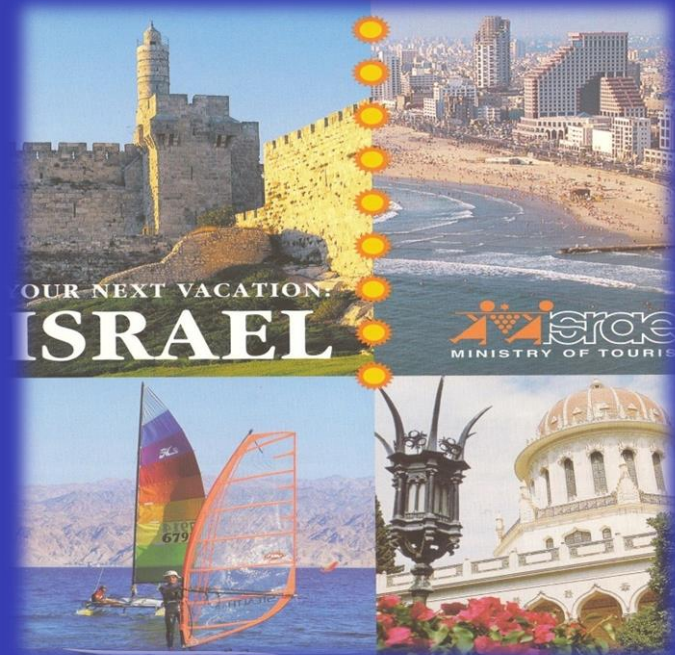
Ahavah Rabah, Shaharit

- Israel is continually mentioned in daily Jewish liturgy
- A reference to Israel is included in every Jewish wedding celebration.
- Given that Israel plays such a prominent role in Jewish history, culture, and ritual practice, it seems imperative to include Israel in the Jewish values which we hope to instill in young families



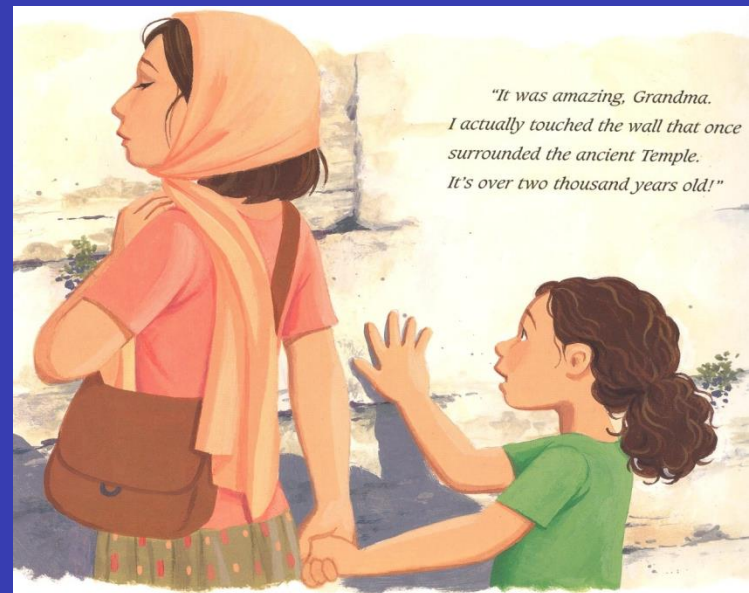
Goals of PJ Book-Based Israel Programs

- To strengthen families' connections to Israel
- To educate families about Israel's past, present, and future
- To help families appreciate the beauty and geographic diversity of the Land of Israel



Additional Goals of Booked-Based Israel Programs

- To instill within families the desire to visit Israel
- To increase a family's Hebrew vocabulary
- To help families learn how to integrate Israel into their daily lives

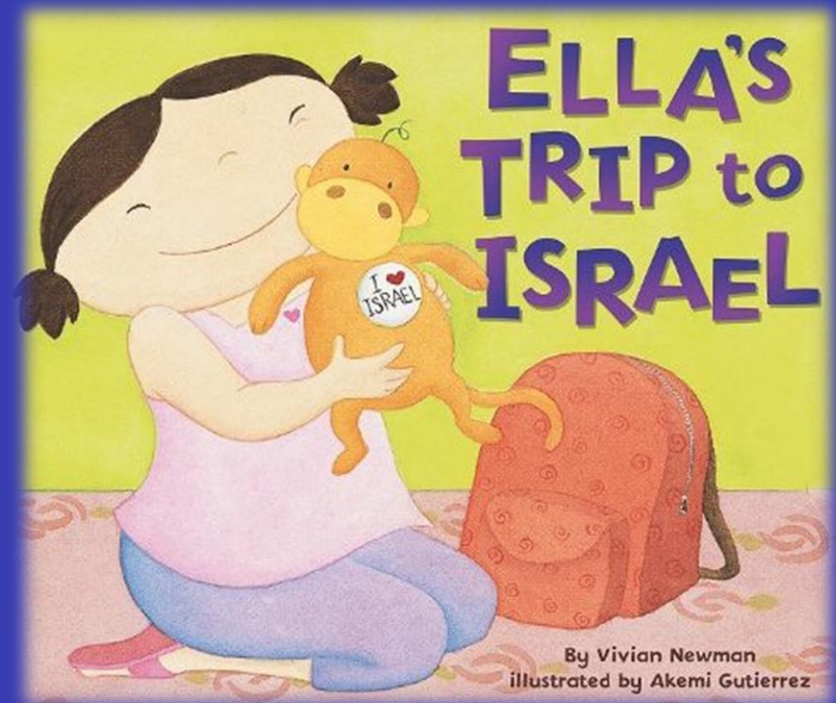
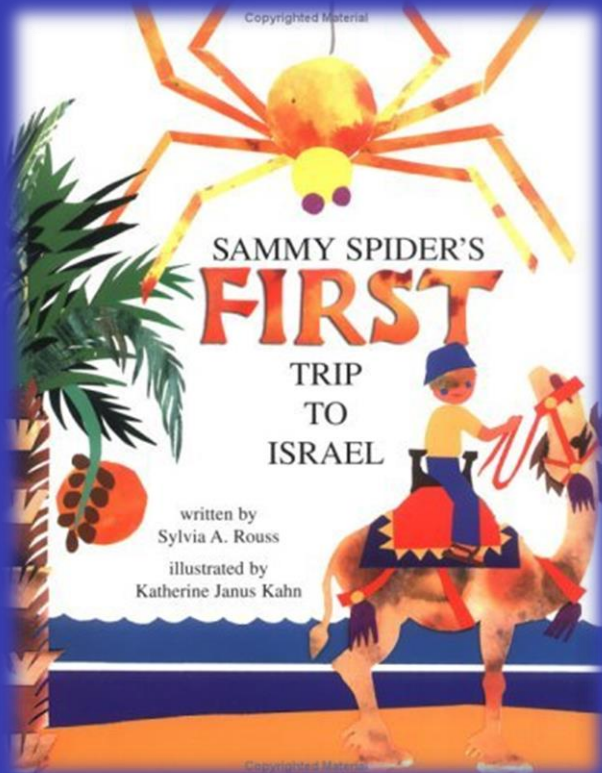


The Impact of Visiting Israel on Jewish Identity

	Married a Jew	Being Jewish Very Important	Very Attached to Israel
Traveled to Israel as a teen or young adult	80%	67%	53%
Did not travel to Israel as a teen or young adult	51%	29%	17%

Source: Cohen and Kotler-Berkowitz, "The Impact of Childhood Jewish Education"

PJ Books – A Powerful Tool for Educating Young Children About Israel



Types of Programs which These Books Inspire

- Imaginary, interactive trips to Israel
- Programs featuring the creation of take home materials which will serve as a memento of the story read and which will encourage additional discussion and activity around the topic of Israel



Connecting PJ Books to the Larger Concept of Ahavat Yisrael-Love of Israel

A Sample Book Introduction:

Goal of Introduction-To help young children begin to understand why Israel is so special to the Jewish people and how Israel connects to their lives.

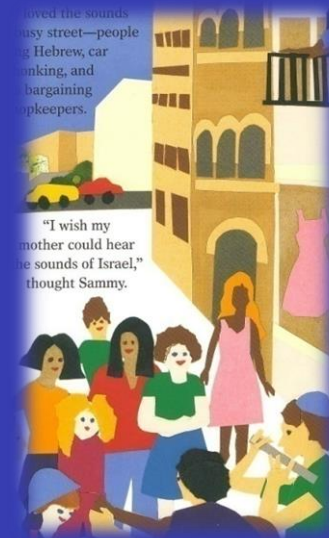
Today we're going to read _____ (fill in title of book) which tells the story of a family who travels to the very special land of Israel. Israel is a country which is very far away. Israel is a very beautiful country full of wonderful oceans, mountains, forests and some very old and very new cities. Israel is an important place for many different religions and people. Israel is known as the Jewish homeland. This means that no matter where a Jewish person may live or may have been born, he/she is always welcome to come visit and/or stay in Israel and build a home there.

The Jewish people who live in Israel are called Israeli's. Most Israeli's speak Hebrew. Although most Israeli's speak a different language than we do, they are really very similar to us. For example, most Israeli boys and girls celebrate and look forward to the same Jewish holidays that we do. What's very special about Israel is that almost The entire country celebrates the Jewish holidays together. So are you ready to read our book and see what life in Israel is like?



Hints for Introducing the Books

- Use props/puppets and large, clear photos of Israel to enhance the books' teaching potential



Additional Reading Hints

- Summarize the plot before reading.
- Assign a role for the children to play as the text is read aloud .

As Sammy travels throughout Israel , he is going to see smell, hear , touch and taste all kinds of brand new things. Will you help me teach Sammy the names for many of the new objects and places that he meets in his travel?



As Koofi travels throughout Israel he insists on doing whatever Ella does. If Ella drinks mango juice, then Koofi tries some too. IF Ella covers herself with Dead Sea mud, then Koofi does the same. Unfortunately, Ella and Koofi soon learn that juice and mud and all sorts of other Israeli treasure do not wash off of Koofi as easily as they wash off of Ella. At the beginning of the book, Ella and her parents learn some special Hebrew words to say whenever Koofi becomes sticky or dirty or runs into some other type of problem “En Baaya” No problem they say as they try to clean Koofi up after one of his little accidents. I seem to have a little trouble remembering that phrase, so can you help me say “En Baaya “ whenever something drippy or sticky lands on Koofi?

“Flight 613 Preparing for Take Off”

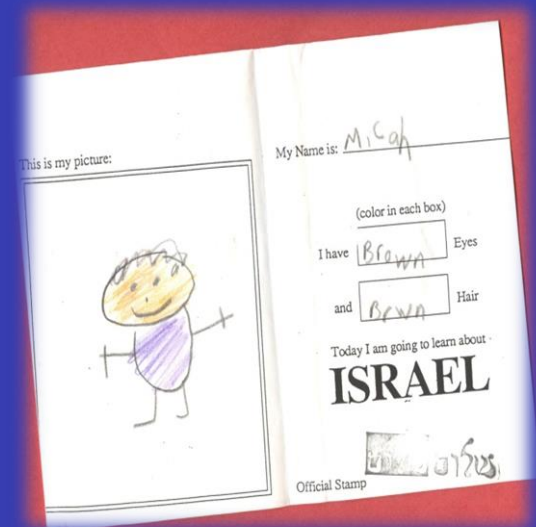
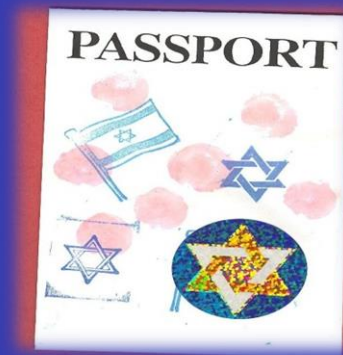
Possible Introductory Activity:

Preparing a Passport:

Materials Needed: Passport Template

(one is provided at the end of this webinar),
pencils or markers, stickers, ink pads,
rubber stamps, bingo markers (dot paint)

Directions: Children use a variety of materials (see above) to
decorate the front of their passports.
Parents help children (if necessary) to
complete information required on inside
of Passport



Making Sun Visors-Another Possible Introductory Activity

Materials Needed: Visors cut from craft foam, markers, stickers, (optional)stencils, dot paints, small hole punch for making holes on both ends of visor, elastic thread

Discussion Questions: Did you know that for most of the year, there is usually nice, sunny weather in Israel. If you were going to Israel, what might you bring for the sun?



Making Suitcases

Materials Needed: Large piece of construction paper (approx. 12 x 16 inches) , markers, stickers, rubber stamps, stamp pads, stapler

Directions:

Assemble suitcase prior to program. Fold construction paper almost in half, leaving a 2 inch border at the top of one half. Using pencil and scissors , construct a handle from the border of the paper. Staple suitcase on three sides, leaving the top open.

At the program: children decorate suitcase using materials described above.



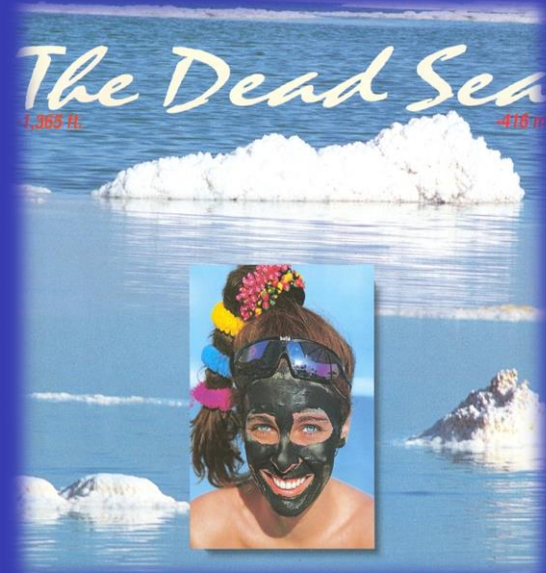
Suggestions for a Smooth, Fun -Filled Flight

- Remember to stamp passports as passengers board.
- Enjoy playing the role of flight captain-Wear a pilot's cap an El Al pin/emblem etc.
- Consider distributing snacks on the flight (pretzels or bamba or beezlie in baggies, mango juice,etc.)
- Show a brief in-flight movie-
 - Try a segment from the new (or old) Shalom Sesame DVD's
- Instruct passengers to clap and sing Havenu Shalom Aleichem as the plane touches ground in Israel (Israeli music will lend a nice finishing touch to the flight.)



Trip Itinerary

- Set up several different stations or sites to visit during the course of your trip-
- Try to keep a good space and physical distance between sites
- Use posters, art work, and Israeli music to augment the ambiance of each site.
- Place a sticker or stamp in the child's passport for every site visited.



The Kotel

Station Activities:

With a parent's help, the child dictates/writes a prayer on a piece of paper, folds the written prayer, and inserts it into a crack in the wall



Materials Needed: pieces of paper, pens, some type of kotel (The Kotel depicted in this illustration was drawn on a tri-fold science display board.)

What is a prayer? Prayers are "wishes and Thank You's." When we pray (or write a prayer) we give thanks for all of those things which make us feel happy . Prayer can also be a time for asking or wishing for those-things which we believe we really need.



More Kotel Suggestions and Information

An alternative Kotel can be constructed from a series of boxes which have been individually wrapped in brown paper and stacked and taped onto one another. Green tissue paper is inserted in some of the cracks to give the appearance of green foliage

Kotel History and trivia-The Kotel, or Western Wall once served as a retaining wall to the Second Temple. (It was not part of the Temple itself). According to legend, the kotel was originally built by the poorest citizens of Jerusalem. Yet despite it's humble origins, it has outlasted all of the other walls of the once beautiful Temple.



Additional Jerusalem Station- Constructing “Jerusalem of Gold”

Materials needed: Black construction paper, outlines of Jerusalem buildings and walls (pre-cut), yellow paint- mixed with glue, q’tips (for spreading paint/glue), glitter (placed in an empty pill bottle with holes punched on top of bottle to create a shaker)

Directions-Using q-tips children spread paint/glue mixture onto paper and then arrange buildings and Jerusalem labels (in Hebrew and English) on top of the glue. Children then paint the tops of the buildings with paint/glue mixture and sprinkle glitter on top.



Information about **Yerushalyim Shel Zahav-**

As Sammy the Spider notes, when the afternoon sunlight falls on the buildings of the Old City of Jerusalem, the city looks as if it were covered in gold. All of the buildings, in both the new and old cities of Jerusalem are made from Jerusalem stone. Stone was used in the construction of Jerusalem, because wood and trees were scarce (much of the country was located with in the desert), yet stones and rocks were plentiful.



Archeological Dig

Materials Needed:

- An indoor or outdoor sandbox- or
- several dishwashing bins filled with sand and placed on top of a low table or placed directly on the floor (on top of a tablecloth or drop cloth)
- Items to be hidden in the sand , including: pieces of Jerusalem stone, old coins, dreidels, candle holder inserts, mezuzah cases etc-)

Activity Directions –Children dig in the sand, locate hidden objects and speculate how these objects were once used. Children are allowed to take a few found items home with them.



Projects with Jerusalem Stone- Recycling “Found” Stones into Beautiful Pieces of Art



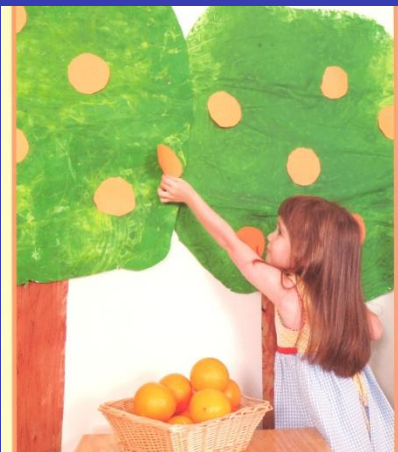
- These projects work best with slightly older aged children. The glue which the project requires is a fairly strong epoxy which must be purchased from a craft store. Younger children can assist in laying out and arranging the stone. The name of the vendor for these stones can be found at the end of the webinar

A Visit to a Kibbutz

Introduction: What is a Kibbutz?

- A Kibbutz is a type of farm, owned by many different families.
- The families who live on a kibbutz work together and take turns at many different jobs (such as planting and, picking fruits and vegetables,, washing the clothes, cooking the food etc.
- Long ago, there were many kibbutzim throughout Israel. Now there are only a few, but these kibbutzim welcome visitors and allow the visitors to help with the farm work

What we will do at our pretend Kibbutz?



- Pick oranges off of paper trees. The oranges are attached to the tree with Velcro
- Use real oranges to make some fresh squeezed orange juice.
- Search for hard boiled eggs, placing the eggs in a recycled egg carton and then hiding the eggs once again for the next Kibbutz visitor

Kibbutz Activities- Continued

How to Milk a pretend Cow.-

- To assemble the cow-use a light weight rubber glove. With a push pin, make a hole in each finger of the rubber glove. Fill the glove with water and tie it.
- Tape the glove under the cardboard cow and have the children squeeze the milk/water into the bucket.



The Dead Sea

Possible Activities:

Making Salt Art Pictures-

Prior to Program-Mix salt with food coloring. Use separate bowls for each color. Allow salt to dry

On Day of Program- Give children q-tips, glue , paper, and colored salt.



Making Dead Sea Mud- Using food coloring, create a brown colored water. Pour approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ cup corn starch into each child's bowl. Give each child a cup filled with $\frac{1}{8}$ cup of brown water. Instruct the children to slowly add the water to the corn starch and stir mixture with a spoon. Continue to add water until the corn starch has taken on a drippy, wet to the look , but slightly dry to the touch consistency.



Tsfat-An Opportunity for adding more art projects to your Program



Exploring Israeli Food

Food Activity-Making an Israeli Salad

Children Assist in Chopping Vegetables for an Israeli Salad

- Prepare a large bowl of salad prior to program
- Children will work with peeled cucumbers, peppers cut in thin strips, and grape tomatoes.
- They will chop these vegetables into small pieces and add them to the large, communal salad.
- Children will also add a squeeze of lemon and a pinch of salt to salad
- Children will sample salad, pita, and hummus
- Budget permitting- Pre-cooked falafel balls may be added to pitot as well
- Families learn the expression “B’tai-avon” (in good taste), to be declared before munching on their snack
- Optional- Display The Hebrew names of the salad vegetables at this station



A Trip to Mount Carmel National Park

- With the recent Carmel Fires, Israel and the JNF-Jewish National Fund need our help more than ever
- A brief excursion to Mount Carmel National Park-where children can play a card matching game of finding pairs of matching trees
-may be a nice way to introduce families to the ideas that: Israel needs trees, Growing trees in Israel requires extra hard work, and we can help with that work by earmarking some of our tzedekah money to JNF.



Mount Carmel Forest cont.

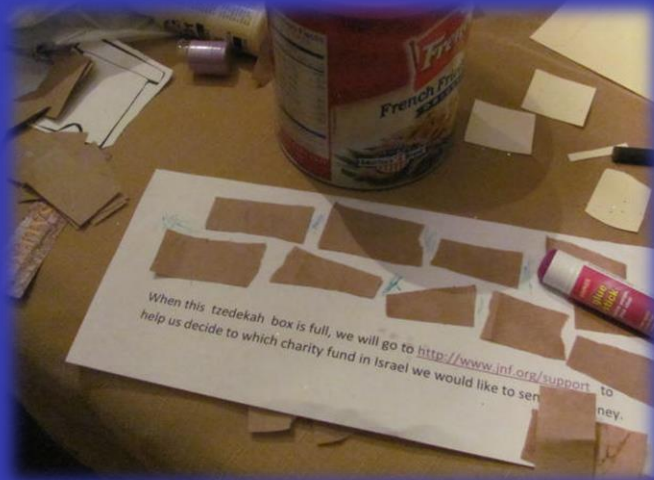
- Making a tree tzedekah container can be the culminating activity of the Mount Carmel Forest Excursion
- The container, which will display the address of where to send the money when the can is full, will hopefully serve to jumpstart conversations about Israel in the weeks to come



A Kotel Tzedekah Box- An art project With a Hidden Research Assignment

The inscription on this box reads

*When this tzedekah box is full, we
will go to <http://www.jnf.org/support> to help us decide to which charity
fund in Israel we will send this money.*



An Israel Memory Placemat

- Serves as a memento of the family's pretend trip to Israel. Helps promote discussion of some of the places visited and activities performed there.
- The web address provided on the mat, <http://www.israel21c.org/> will hopefully prompt families to continue to discuss and learn about Israel from the comfort of their own home and kitchen table.



Visit <http://www.israel21c.org/>
To learn cool and ever changing
facts about Israel

A Few “Goodies” to Help you Run Effective Israel Programs-Passport Template

PASSPORT

This is my picture:

My Name is: _____

(color in each box)

I have Eyes

and Hair

Today I am going to learn about

ISRAEL

Official Stamp

Some Important Addresses

For ordering posters and
pictures of Israel:

Israel Ministry of Tourism
800 Second Avenue-16th Floor
New York, NY 10017
Phone: 212 499-5650
www.goisrael.com

JNF Jewish National Fund
42 East 69th Street
New York, NY 10021
Phone: 888 JNF-0099
www.jnf.org

For ordering boxes of
Jerusalem Stone:

JerUSAlem Stone
T 816 444-4405 (Ben)
F 816 444 4415
319 West 79th Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64114
www.JerusalemStone.com