



Judean Desert
מדבר יהודה



Jerusalem
ירושלים



Masada
מצדה



Kever Rachel
קבר רחל



Tel Aviv
תל אביב



Dead Sea
ים המלח



WHAT IS...

ERETZ YISRAEL

TEACHER'S GUIDE



The Lessons, in short:

The lessons can be taught in any order.

1. Dig into Our Past

Connecting to our long history in Eretz Yisrael, through archaeological digs.

Covering:

- How archaeology helps us know more about the civilizations that lived before us.
- Some of the artifacts and sites uncovered in Eretz Yisrael and what it tells us about the Jews living in Eretz Yisrael through the ages.
- Archaeological finds in Jerusalem, particularly around the Bet Ha Mikdash.

Focus on: Jerusalem. The heart of Jewish spiritual life—then and now.

2. Footsteps in Eretz Yisrael

Anywhere we walk in Eretz Yisrael today, we may be walking in the footsteps of our ancestors and connecting to the stories of the Tanach.

Covering:

- The people of Tanach who lived in Eretz Yisrael.
- The cities of Eretz Yisrael today, and anywhere we may be walking today we may be walking in the very steps of our ancestors.
- A comparison of ancient and modern life, so students don't leave with a sense that Eretz Yisrael is an old-fashioned country.

Focus on: Beer Sheva / Be'er Sheva. Avraham and Yitzchok dug wells and lived in Beer Sheva.

3. Tiyulim in Eretz Yisrael

The diverse nature in Eretz Yisrael helps us recognize Hashem.

Covering:

- The varied topography and regions of Eretz Yisrael, and how it helps us connect to Hashem.
- The weather extremes in Eretz Yisrael.

Focus on: Judean Deserts. En Gedi, Dead Sea. The Dead Sea scrolls were found in the desert.

4. Jews Unite in Eretz Yisrael

The people in Eretz Yisrael and how they live today.

Covering:

- Jews have come all around the world to live, study and work in Eretz Yisrael.
- Eretz Yisrael is a modern country, with people working in all sorts of jobs, many of which are innovative and very advanced.

Focus on: Meron. Jews from all over the country and the world come together to Meron for Lag B'Omer.

5. Celebrate Eretz Yisrael Day

Ideas and materials for a meaningful and exciting event.

- Covering: the cities and places and experiences of Eretz Yisrael.

In this Kit:

This Teacher's Kit includes this Teacher's Guide and 1 CD.

This program comes with Teacher Materials (on the CD) to make it easier for the teacher to prepare enriched lessons. These include pictures, game cards, powerpoints and more. The second CD has the Powerpoints and videos.

CD—Teacher Materials Includes all printables for games and activities. (You will not need all. First choose the activities you'd like to do and print only those.)

Overall

- 0.01.Jeopardy template (PPT)
- 0.02.Jeopardy worksheet
- 0.03.Song Sheet
- 0.04.Traveling to Israel (movie)

Dig into the Past (Archaeology)

- 1.01.ArchaeologicalTools
- 1.02.ZoomIns
- 1.03.ArchaeologicalFinds.Small
- 1.04.ArchaeologicalFinds.FullSize
- 1.05.Puzzle
- 1.06.ArchaeologyPPT (PPT)

Footsteps in Eretz Yisrael

- 2.01.Footsteps(reading cards)
- 2.01.Footsteps(with words)
- 2.02.PeopleofEretzYisrael
- 2.03.Who'sWho
- 2.04.FillinGrid (blank)
- 2.04.FillinGrid (with footprints)
- 2.05.The 6000Facts
- 2.05.ThemiraclesCircles
- 2.06.6000FactsQuestions

Tiyulim in Eretz Yisrael

- 3.01.Naturepics.Small
- 3.02.Naturepics.Large
- 3.03.Map pieces.Large
- 3.04.Trips
- 3.05.Nature.Video
- 3.06.Weather

People of Eretz Yisrael

- 4.01.ModernLiving
- 4.02.IdentityCards
- 4.03.GettingToKnowPeople
- 4.04.Stores

Celebrate Eretz Yisrael Day

- 5.01.Stencils
- 5.02.Hu Yivarech (link)

Extras

- 6.01.Miracle with Land Mines
- 6.02.Six Day War
- 6.03.WestPoint about Israel miracles
- 6.04.IsraelPlaces (pictures)

Note: It is worthwhile to check that the PPTs and videos work well with your electronic equipment.

Overall:

Eretz Yisrael

In this unit, we explore our Biblical rights to Eretz Yisrael. We hope to instill in the children the understanding that Eretz Yisrael is the homeland of the Jewish people. We also hope that the children understand that it is a modern country, with all modern conveniences, and a wonderful place to live.

Some of these points are not incorporated into any particular lesson. They should be woven into conversations.

Eretz Yisrael is the homeland of the Jews

- Eretz Yisrael. Eretz = land Yisrael = another name of the Jews. (Another name for Eretz Yisrael is Zion).
- Jerusalem is our eternal capital for eternity.
- Hashem gave the land to the Jews, as our homeland.
- We entered Eretz Yisrael after wandering through the desert after receiving the Torah.
- Hashem chose a special land that goes hand in hand with the Jew's mission – to bring goodness down in this world. Once Hashem chose this land for a special purpose, for the Jews – it became kadosh.
- Hashem made an assessment of every land and found no land more suited to the Jewish people than the land of Eretz Yisrael. And no people more suited to the land of Eretz Yisrael than the people of Israel. - Midrash, Lev Rabbah 13
- The land of Israel is dear to me
The nation of Israel is dear to me
I will place the nation of Israel – which is dear to me
In the land that is dear to me
- Midrash, Tanchuma Parashah 23:7

Eretz Yisrael is mentioned hundreds of times in the Torah

- Hashem promised the land to Avraham, and his children.
- Eretz Yisrael is mentioned so many times in the Torah & Tanach– the Torah describes our journeys through the land, from the spies, to conquering the land, to building the Beit Hamikdash, and the kings, etc.
- Eretz Yisrael is mentioned so many times in our Tefillot.

Eretz Yisrael helps us better connect with Hashem

- Eretz Yisrael and the Jewish people are bound to another forever. Our history, special Mitzvot, etc.
- Eretz Yisrael is a small land, but has been custom made to facilitate the awareness of Hashem.
- Eretz Yisrael has such beautiful wonder, it's so ecologically diverse – mountains, seas, desert, forests, caves, etc. – through Nature, we can appreciate Hashem (Rambam).

The Lesson:

Dig into our Past

Jews have always been in Eretz Yisrael

- We know that our history as Jews began in Eretz Yisrael. It says so right there in the Torah. Our forefathers and mothers lived there. Avraham & Sarah. Yitzchok & Rivka. Yaakov & Rochel & Leah. Their children.
- Then after receiving the Torah and becoming the Jewish nation, the Jews lived in Eretz Yisrael for hundreds and hundreds of years. Much of it is recorded in other books of the Torah—Joshua, Samuel, Prophets, Kings and others. And then in the Mishna and later in the Talmud. After that there are other manuscripts and books describing life in Eretz Yisrael. (Joshua, Samuel, King Saul, King David, King Solomon, Jeremiah, Elisha, Yehuda the Prince, etc.)

The past is hidden, but we have started to uncover it

- During those years, the people lived—they built homes and synagogues, they had clothing, they made food, they bought & sold. Just as we do today. Some things that they used back then have survived for thousands of years and we can get a glimpse into their lives.
- When they were no longer using those items—whether because they were broken, or because people moved or were displaced or killed because of war, these items got left behind, and eventually they became covered over. With many, many feet of dirt.
- Sometimes, it is the wind that blows sand and soil. Over the years of no sweeping or clearing it away, there can be many feet of sand and soil. Sometimes, it's the rain or water that bring debris and bury the items.
- Also, sometimes people built whole cities in that area. So there is an ancient city under a newer city. Sometimes, there are layers of civilizations, one under the other. The deeper, the older.
- And of course, sometimes people themselves buried the items for protection, or out of respect for the item, so that it wouldn't be found by enemies or further destroyed.

Archaeologists study ancient past through material remains

- Archaeology is tons of dirt-digging, story-telling, mystery-solving fun. It's kind of like treasure hunting, but more like being a detective. Archaeologists peel back the historic earth to learn about people who lived in this place before us.
- They look at the clues in the items that the things the people before us left behind. And they try to put together a story of those people and of their lives. It's like doing a large puzzle – but without knowing what the final picture looks like.
- Many of the digs in Israel today are conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority.

Explanation of Artifacts

Coin



This coin was found near the Kotel walls.

Thousands of coins, with all sorts of markings have been found all over Eretz Yisrael. Some as old as 3,000 years. They were used pretty much in the same way that we use coins today.

Some have pictures of plants, buildings, stars, cornucopias, flowers, Menorah. Coins made by the Jews did not have an image of a face.

In the ancient world, issuing coins was a way of expressing national independence.

Earring



A gold earring, inlaid with pearls and precious stones.

This earring was found in the City of David, right outside of the Kotel area.

It was probably worn by a wealthy Jewish woman.

Archaeologists think this earring is about 2000 years old from the time of the 2nd Bet Hamikdash.

Letter



This letter, dating to the First Temple period, contains one of the earliest references to the Temple (the "House of God"). Found in the Fortress of Arad, it is addressed to Elyashib, the fortress commandant. It was presumably dispatched by one of his subordinates, who seems to have been sent to Jerusalem in search of a certain individual, who was discovered in the Temple.

Inscription:

To my lord Elyashib, may the Lord seek your welfare, and now: Give to Shemaryahu a lethekh (?), and to the cheroshim a homer(?), and as to the matter which you commanded me – it is well; he is in the house of God.

Mikvah



This mikvah was uncovered right near the area of the Bet Hamikdash. The mikvah was used to prepare oneself to go into the holy Bet Hamikdash, as a spiritual cleanser—bringing the physical body to a more spiritual level.

The mikvah was filled with water. People would go down the steps into the water dunk under the water. Then they were considered 'pure' and spiritually ready to enter the Bet Hamikdash. Then they'd go up the other staircase.

Mosaic

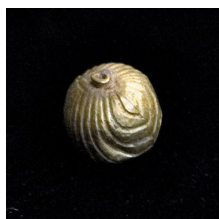


Mosaic floor from a synagogue—in Tiberia (Tiberias), near the Kineret Lake.

Many synagogues had beautiful mosaic floors with all sorts of beautiful designs—flowers, Jewish items, patterns. These were all made by hand.

Many have survived hidden under layers of sands. Many times the walls did not survive, or people used the stones of the walls for new buildings, but we do have the floors. And so we know where many synagogues were built through the ages.

Pomegranate Bell



This tiny golden bell in the shape of a pomegranate was found in an ancient sewer line in the Old City of Jerusalem. (It's only 1/2 inch in diameter).







It makes a tiny tinkling sound when shaken. And has a loop on top so it can be sewn onto a garment.

This bell may very likely be part of the clothing worn by the High Priest in the Bet Hamikdash. Quite possibly, the bell fell off clothing and rolled into the sewer draining system.

The Activities: Choose from these activities.





1. INTRODUCE ARCHAEOLOGY

Objective: Students should be able to understand how archaeology helps us know more about the civilizations that lived before us.

	TOOLS OF ARCHAEOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Display items used by archaeologists. Students should guess what these have to do with Eretz Yisrael. 	
	UNCOVER THE PUZZLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students act like archaeologists and uncover puzzle pieces in sand. (or other materials). Then put together the puzzle. 	
	INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion about archaeology in Eretz Yisrael with pictures. 	







2. HOW THINGS BECOME HIDDEN

Objective: The students should understand how the items were covered for so long

	CREATE LAYERS OF HIDDEN ARTIFACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use soil, pebbles and sand to demonstrate how items become buried with time. 	
	JELLYBEAN LAYERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use different colored jellybeans to demonstrate how items become buried with time. 	

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS IN ERETZ YISRAEL

Objective: The students should know about some of the important finds in Eretz Yisrael and what they tell us about Jewish life in ancient Eretz Yisrael.

	ARCHAEOLOGY GALLERY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students match zoom-in pictures of artifacts to the full picture. 	
	ARCHAEOLOGY MATCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students match zoom-in pictures to other zoom-in pictures of the same item. 	
	PPT SHOW & GAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First some pictures of finds in Eretz Yisrael, with discussion. Then a game played sort of like concentration—students choose a box and then describe the item. Eventually reveal a hidden gem of Eretz Yisrael. 	

FOCUS ON:

Jerusalem. The heart of Jewish spiritual life—then and now.



Activities:

Dig into our Past



PPT SHOW & GAME



Objective: Students will know that the Jews have a long history in Eretz Yisrael.

Prepare

1. View [1.06.ArchaeologyPPT] to make sure that you know how to play the game.

Activity

1. First view the first part of the PPT—the items.
2. Explain the game: Hiding under the sand and dirt is a archaeological treasure from Eretz Yisrael. Can we figure out what is hidden in less than 3 minutes?
3. Student 1 selects a number. Teacher clicks on that number. An archaeological find is revealed. Student tells what it is.
4. If she is right, the teacher clicks on that number to uncover a part of the hidden picture. And the next student chooses a number to reveal another picture and says what it is.
5. If she said an incorrect answer, the next student first must tell what it is or choose another number, and that picture remains on the screen, blocking the hidden treasure.
6. The hidden picture is a mosaic floor from the Bet Alpha Synagogue.



- 1.06.ArchaeologyPPT
- Laptop/projector



Activities:

Tiyulim in Eretz Yisrael



HELICOPTER TRIP MEMORY GAME



Objective: To emphasize that there are so many and varied topographies and natural wonders in Eretz Yisrael. (It is not important that they remember where each one is.)

Prepare

1. Print [3.02.NaturePics.Large]
2. (Preview [3.05.Nature.Video])

Activity

1. Show the pictures of nature quickly. Or, if you have already done the activity about the various topographies, then there is no need to show the pictures again.
 2. Give the children 45—60 seconds to write down as many of the topographies as they remember.
 3. Children should then pair up and try to fill in those that they missed.
 4. For Bonus points, they can also write which part of the country that can be found in.
 5. (The teacher can offer information about each place at this point.)
 6. No winner. Count how many of the topographies each pair remembered. And then how many were remembered by the whole class. The class can get that many points, or jellybeans, etc.
- **Variation:** Print 2 sets of the small pictures and cut into cards. Play a Matching game.
 - **Variation:** You can frame this game as a helicopter or biplane trip over Israel. Which topographies might we see?
 - **Variation:** Show the [3.05.Nature.Video] first and then play the memory game.



- [3.02.NaturePics.Large]
- [3.05.Nature.Video]
- (Computer/ Projector)

Life in Eretz Yisrael Today: Details

Apartment Buildings



Apartment Buildings: Many people in Eretz Yisrael live in apartment buildings. Eretz Yisrael is a small country, and lots of people want to live there. There isn't room for everyone to have their own house and yard. So they build upward—tall apartment buildings.

Most buildings are made of white stone. The white stones don't absorb the sun and keeps the building cooler.

Bamba



Bamba. Bamba is a favorite snack in Eretz Yisrael. It is made of peanut butter. (interesting note: very few children in Israel have allergies to peanut butter.)

Crosswalk



Crosswalk: This sign indicates that people should cross only in the crosswalk. Notice the blue color.

Falafel



Falafel: Falafel sandwich is a favorite quick food. It is made of falafel ball (fried chickpeas mix) and salad, in a pita bread. Sometimes people add a sauce called techina and other things like French fries (chips) and pickles.

Fire Truck



Fire Trucks: The fire trucks in Israel are mostly red. They have all the supplies and equipment to put out all types of fires. (Notice the words in Hebrew.)

Garbage Truck



Garbage Trucks: This garbage truck is green & yellow. It is picking up a container. (Notice the Hebrew words at the end of the truck.)

Stop Sign



This sign indicates to driver to STOP. Perhaps it doesn't have words because there are so many languages spoken in Eretz Yisrael and they wanted to make sure that everyone would understand the sign. (Notice the same octagon shape and red color.)

The event:

Celebrate Eretz Yisrael Day

Grand school events are always fun, and memorable for the participants. Here, we provide lots of ideas for a Celebrate Eretz Yisrael day.

Things to Consider

Know the objective of your event. *When you know your main objective and secondary objectives, you can plan your event accordingly. Any and all are valid.*

- Make parents happy that we are addressing Eretz Yisrael.
- Instill a love for Eretz Yisrael as a Jewish homeland.
- Make Eretz Yisrael real – that it is a modern place where lots of Jews live and do things just as we do in other countries.
- Instill a love and connection to the Jews of Israel.
- Children should know about some major places and landmarks in Eretz Yisrael.
- Children should know our Jewish and Biblical connection to Eretz Yisrael.
- Children should know about modern Israel.
- Children should know that when Moshaich comes all Jews will live in Eretz Yisrael, and we want Moshiach now!

Some ideas to make the event even more memorable and exciting

- Invite family and friends to the Eretz Yisrael festival.
- Allow students to create/manipulate stations, or get volunteers from the community.
- You can get the students dressed up in ancient times (as they do in Eretz Beraishit/ Genesis Land of Israel). Create the garment by cutting a hole for the head in a large piece of fabric (like tzitzit). Wrap with a belt. Wrap rag on the head. (You can also use white baggy pants).
- If possible, bring a camel for camel rides.
- Hang up the posters that the children created during the unit.
- Explain the various stations before the students go to each one.
- Include pictures (or short video clip) of the place in Eretz Yisrael so children understand what is being represented at each station.
- Include a plan for reflection into the program – documentation, children do something at each station – add to a journal, passport, photo op, etc. so that they can remember and talk about their whole experience.
- Think of all the senses – what are the sounds, smells, sights of the event.
- Beyond the actual stations, what else might you include – signs in Hebrew ברוכים הבאים, photos of other places in Israel, famous buildings, street signs, Israeli symbols (El Al, Egged, Israrail, Menorah), Israeli license plates – just to give a more Eretz Yisrael feel.