

5th Grade (Kita Hey) Holidays, Customs & Ceremonies Curriculum

Overview

In Grade 5 students are learning holidays, customs, and ceremonies with an age-appropriate level of knowledge, building upon their knowledge from Grade 4. The students find the biblical sources for holidays (except Hanukah, of course.) An emphasis is placed on experiential learning, such as baking Challah, blowing the Shofar, shaking Lulav and Etrog, making Mishloah Manot on Purim and searching for Hametz as well as doing a Model Seder before Pesah. The units follow the Jewish calendar. In the weeks between holidays, the teacher would focus on topics such as Kashrut, Rosh Hodesh and Shabbat.

Notes to Parents: This curriculum contains the knowledge, skills and attitude Jewish students are expected to learn. It provides the learning objectives that students are expected to meet; the units and lessons that teachers teach; the books, materials, technology and readings used in a course; and the assessments methods used to evaluate student learning.

Some units have a large amount of material that on a given year may be modified in consideration of the Jewish calendar, lost school days due to weather (snow days), and give greater flexibility to the teacher to accommodate students' pre-existing level of knowledge and skills.

Leap Year: Every 2 or 3 years, around February, there is an additional Jewish month called Adar I. During this month, a teacher would change the sequence and teach a unit which is typically covered in April / May (e.g. Israel.)

Textbooks: How-To Handbook for Jewish Living
JPS Tanach and Humash Etz Hayim for citing biblical sources
Books from the school Library

Goals and Objectives

- To review customs and ceremonies
- To review Hebrew prayers associated with customs and ceremonies
- To review customs at home
- To review customs at synagogue

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| The Jewish Month | Topics Covered |
|-------------------------|--|
| Elul, Tishrei | Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah |
| Heshvan | Shabbat, Shemita, Kashrut (2) |
| Kislev | Hanukah (2) |
| Tevet | The 4 fast days, mezuzah, Value of Life |
| Shevat | Rosh Hodesh, Tu Bishvat |
| Adar | Purim (2) Pesah (2) |
| Nisan | Pesah (2 more), Yom haShoah, Yom Hazikaron/Haatzmaut, |
| Iyar | Yerushalayim, Shavuot, Lag Baomer |
| Sivan, Tammuz, Av, Elul | |

Unit 1: SEPTEMBER - Rosh Hashanah, 1 session, 1 hour

Goals and Objectives

- Students will explore Rosh Hashanah as a new beginning of a cycle of Jewish life
- Students will explore the moral dimensions of Rosh Hashanah

Key Words & Key Concepts

- Beginning a new year
- Examination of the past in relation to the present and future
- Celebrations in the home
- Shofar as a symbol of the holiday
- The story of the binding of Isaac

Key Terms

- Yom Hadin (day of judgment)
- Yom Hazikaron (day of remembrance)
- Rosh means head; Ha means The; Shanah means year
- Tashlich: How-To Handbook, page 64-65
- Shofar: How-To Handbook, pages 61-62
- Mitzvah

Special Activities

- Blow a Shofar
- Practice Tashlich on Rosh Hashanah with the congregation and Rabbi
- Eat apple & honey

Assessments

- Questions & Answers

Unit 2: SEPTEMBER - Yom Kippur, 1 session, 1 hour

Goals and Objectives

- Students will discuss the meaning of teshuvah
- Students will understand that Yom Kippur is a time for moral self-evaluation
- Students will understand that God is merciful when he sits in judgment

Key Words & Key Concepts

- Yom Kippur is the final day of the Days of Awe
- The meaning of right and wrong in our actions and relationships
- Fasting and uninterrupted prayer
- Themes of repentance and forgiveness in the Story of Jonah

Key Terms

- Teshuvah
- Repentance
- New Year Resolution

Special Activities:

- Review the story of Jonah and the Big Fish
- Take turn to blow a Shofar

Assessments:

- Questions & Answers

Unit 3: OCTOBER - Sukkot, 1 session, 1 hour

Textbook: Lulav and Etrog, The How-To Book, page 70

Textbook: The 4 species, The How-To Book, page 67

Goals and Objectives

- Students will examine Sukkot as a holiday of harvest
- Students will be reminded of our ancestors' 40 years of desert wandering
- Students will understand Sukkot's symbols and ceremonies

Key Words & Key Concepts

- The reasons for building sukkah today
- Shemini Atzeret
- Prayers for Lulav and Etrog
- A kosher Sukkah guideline, The How-To Book, page 67

Key Terms

- Arba Minim
- Four species

Special Activities:

- Decorate the Sukkah
- Shake Lulav & Etrog
- Sit in the Sukkah and eat a snack
- Recite Birkat Hamazon in the Sukkah

Assessments

- Recite “Leshev Basukah” blessing
- Recite “Netilat Lulav” blessing
- Shake Lulav & Etrog in all directions

Unit 4: OCTOBER - Simchat Torah, 1 Session, 1 hour

Goals and Objectives

- Students will examine customs and rituals of Simchat Torah
- Students will understand the centrality of the Torah to Jewish Life

Key Words & Key Concepts

- Simchat Torah is the happiest holiday of the year
- The Torah is important to the Jewish people
- The reading of the last chapter of Torah (Deuteronomy)
- Discuss and debate who have written the last chapter of the Torah
- Reading the first chapter of the Torah (Genesis)
- The celebration of Erev Simchat Torah

Key Terms

- Hakkafot (making the rounds)
- Simcha (happiness)

Assessments

- Define the word “Simcha”
- Be able to tell what Torah portions are read on Simchat Torah
- Questions & Answers

Unit 5: NOVEMBER - Shabbat, 2 sessions, 1 hour each

Goals and Objectives

- Students will understand the role Shabbat has in unifying and preserving the Jewish people
- Student will discuss Ahad Haam ingenious statement: “More than the Jews preserved the Shabbat, the Shabbat preserved them”
- Students will discuss rituals and customs of Shabbat: From candle lighting to the Havdalah Service

Key Words & Key Concepts

- The meaning of Shabbat rest
- Shabbat prayers: wine, challah, candles, The How-To Book, pages 49-52
- Havdalah, The How-To Book, page 57

Key Terms

- Oneg Shabbat
- Hafrashat Challah
- Z'mirot songs of Shabbat

- Havdalah means separation
- The Havdalah Wine
- The Havdalah Spices
- The Havdalah Candle

Activities

- Challa baking and Mitzvat Hafrashat Challah with a volunteer parent
- Listen to YouTube of Lecha Dodi, Z'mirot

Assessment:

- Reciting Kiddush and Havdalah B'rachot during the School's T'fillah time
- Questions & Answers in class

Unit 6: NOVEMBER - Shmita, 1 session, 1 hour

Textbook: Humash Etz Hayim

Goals and Objectives

- Students will discover the biblical source for the Shmitah year (Exodus 23:10-11, and/or Leviticus 25:1-7, and/or Deuteronomy 15:1-6)
- Students will learn that laws of Shmitah are relevant only to the land of Israel

Key Words & Key Concepts

- Shmitah allows the land to rest or "lie fallow"
- God punished the Jews because they did not observe Shmitah
- Ecology vs. Shmita discussion

Key Terms

- Shmitah
- The Sabbatical year

Special Activities

- Find web sources
- Research and discover what is being practiced in Israel today

Assessments

- Questions & Answers

Unit 7: NOV-DEC Kashrut, 2 sessions, 1 hour each

Goals and Objectives

- Students will discover the depth of Jewish Dietary Laws
- Students will understand the biblical source for Kashrut
- Students will learn the post biblical Laws of Kashrut
- Students will gain an understanding of the Jewish mitzvah of eating Kosher food

Key Words & Key Concepts

- It's a mitzvah to keep Kosher

- Kosher Symbols on food wrappings
- Separation of Dairy and Meat
- List of kosher & non kosher food in Leviticus 11:1-47 and Deuteronomy 14: 3-20
- Kosher slaughtering of animals
- Prohibition to eat the blood of animals

Key Terms

- Mitzvah
- Kosher, Kashrut
- Mashgiach
- Shochet
- Treif
- Parve

Activities

- Obtain from Rabbi Kormis the Beth El Kashrut Guidelines
- Find the Kosher symbols on food wraps in supermarkets
- Go on a trip to Trader Joe's (if not practical, get cans and boxes that have kosher markings)

Assessment

- Students can distinguish between Kosher and non-kosher food in the supermarket
- Children can define key terms and answer questions about Kashrut

Unit 8: DECEMBER - Chanukah, 2 sessions, 1 hour each

Goals and Objectives

- Students will review the Chanukah story
- Students will review customs and ceremonies including the Chanukah Candle Blessings

Key Words & Key Concepts

- Story of Chanukah
- Candle lighting ceremony, The How-To Book, page 73
- Songs and Games, The How-To Book, page 77
- Review of Chanukah Candle Blessings
- The rules of Dreidel game

Key Terms

- King Antiochus
- Mattathias
- Maccabees
- Hellenism
- Shammai
- Hillel
- Ma'oz Tzur

- Sevivon

Activities

- Latkes Party
- Baking Donuts and/or Latkes

Assessment

- Recite the candle blessings and Shechayanu
- Jeopardy game of Knowledge

Unit 9: JANUARY - The Four Fast Days, 1 session, 1 hour

Goals and Objectives

- Students will recall the Destruction of the Temple
- Students will learn the four dates in the Jewish calendar that are related to the destruction of the first temple

Key Words & Key Concepts

- Days of Mourning
- Fasting
- Destruction of the First Temple, 586 BCE
- Destruction of the 2nd Temple, 70 CE
- Exile of the Jewish People, Diaspora
- Asara Bevet (Tevet 10) The Romans siege of Jerusalem
- Shiva-Asar Betamuz (Tamuz 17) The walls of Jerusalem breached by the Roamns
- Tisha BeAv(Av 9) The first and second temples were destroyed and burned
- Tzom Gedalya (Tishrei 3)– assassination of Gedalia, the governor of Judia, and the last remnant of the Jews were taken into exile

Key Terms

- Gola, Exile
- Diaspora

Assessment

- Questions and answers

Unit 10: JANUARY - Mezzuzah, 1 session, 1 hour

Goals and Objectives

- Students will understand the biblical source for the Mezzuzah
- Students will learn the rituals in placing the Mezzuzah, The How-To Book, pages 104-105

Key Words & Key Concepts

- The source, Deut 6:9, 11:20
- The Shema inside the Mezuzah
- The particulars of doorposts

Key Terms

- Shema
- Shaddai
- Klaf

Special Activities

- Look inside the Mezuzah at the Klaf
- Find beautiful Memozot at the sisterhood gift shop
- Chant the Shema Yisrael

Assessment

- Recitation of Shema

Unit 11: JAN-FEB The Value of Human Life, 1 session, 1 hour

Goals and Objectives

- Students will understand the importance and value of human life
- Students will learn about the Jewish answers to the dilemma when risking your life is permissible

Key Words & Key Concepts

- Your first responsibility, above all, is the preservation of your own life
- Life is a gift from God and it is yours to preserve and make something meaningful of your life
- Human life vs. Animal life

Key Terms

- Pikuah Nefesh
- Ve'Chai Bahem
- Chayecha Kodem

Special Activity

- Dilemmas and debates (e.g. "if you are in the desert and there is enough water for only yourself and non for your friend...")

Assessments:

- Ethical Dilemma and debate

Unit 12: FEBRUARY - Tu B'Shevat, 1 session, 1 hour

Goals and Objectives

- Students will understand the importance of trees in the Land of Israel
- Students will learn about the early Zionist pioneers

Key Words & Key Concepts

- The Birthday of the Trees

- Tu B'Shevat Seder
- Mitzvot of Ecology in the Torah
- Prohibition to cut down a fruit tree, Duet. 20:19
- Discuss the four (4) "new years" in the Jewish calendar
- Make an analogy to the "new year" of baseball, football, basketball

Key Terms

- Etz Chaim– Torah is the tree of life
- Pioneers

Special Activities

- Participate and enjoy a Tu B'Shevat Seder

Assessments

- Discuss the various "new year" in your life and in Jewish calendar

Unit 13: FEBRUARY - Rosh Hodesh, 1 session, 1 hour

Goals and Objectives

- Students will examine the Jewish way of counting time
- Students will compare the Jewish and secular calendar

Key Words & Key Concepts

- The Lunar Calendar, The How-To Book, pages 138-140
- The meaning of Rosh Hodesh
- The Jewish Calendar
- The names of months and when they fall in the Gregorian calendar
- Tishrei is September-October, Cheshvan is October-November, etc

Special Activities

- Web research on Solar vs. Lunar cycle

Assessments

- Explain why the holidays are sometimes "early" and sometime "late"

Unit 14: MARCH - Purim, 2 sessions, 1 hour each

Goals and Objectives

- Students will review the story of Purim
- Students will review the Purim rituals and customs

Key Words & Key Concepts

- Story of Megilat Ester
- Parties, plays, carnivals costumes
- The 4 Mitzvot (M.M.M.S)
- Megila
- Mishloach Manot
- Matanot LaEvyonim (gift to the poor)
- Seudah

Key Terms

- Mordechai
- Esther
- Haman
- Achashverosh
- Bigtan v'Teresh
- Pur, drawing lot

Special Activities

- Making a Mishloah Manot basket
- Baking Hamentashen
- Giving donations to Operation Hope or other charities
- Carnival

Assessment

- Demonstrate knowledge of the 4 Mitzvot (M.M.M.S.)

Unit 15: MARCH-APRIL Passover, 4 sessions, 1 hour each

Goals and Objectives

- Students will understand the symbols and rituals of Passover
- Students will review the Passover Story
- Students will review the order and parts of the Seder
And important Haggadah prayers and songs

Key Words & Key Concepts

- The Story of Exodus
- The search for the chametz, The How-To Book, pages 79-81
- The Haggadah
- Seder symbols and their meanings, The How-To book, pages 84-85
- The Prophet Elijah
- Seder rituals that students observe in their own homes
- The counting of the Omer, The How-To Book, pages 89-91

Key Terms

- Prophet Elijah
- Freedom
- Seder
- Haggadah
- Matzah
- Maror
- Charoset
- Karpas
- Ten Plagues
- Four Sons, four cups

Special Activities

- Prepare food for Model Seder

- Recite Mah Nishtanah at Model Seder
- Make the Hillel Sandwich
- Attend Siyyum Bechor at the synagogue if you are a first born child
- Bedikat Hametz with candle, feather and spoon

Assessment

- Sing Mah Nishtanah
- Recite Kiddush using special holiday Nusach with teacher
- Ask a lot of questions and try to “stomp the Rabbi”

Unit 16: APRIL - Yom Ha-Shoah, 1 session, 1 hour

Goals and Objectives

- Students will have a very basic introduction to the Holocaust
- Students will hear a survivor’s story and understand what it means to survive
- Student will hear the life story of Rabbi Steinberg who was born in Shanghai, China

Key Words & Key Concepts

- We remember the victims of the Holocaust
- Our congregation has a Torah that Survived the holocaust from the town of Kladno in the Czech republic

Key Terms

- Shoah
- Holocaust
- Ant Semitism

Special Activities

- Participate in a ceremony in the sanctuary, lighting 6 candles
- March with the Holocaust Torah
- Sing in the school assembly Ani Maamin
- Lighting yellow candles at home

Assessments

- Did you light a yellow candle at home?

Unit 17: APRIL-MAY Yom HaZikaron & Yom HaAtzma’ut , 1 session, 1 hour

Goals and Objectives

- Students will review the historical developments that led to the creation of the State of Israel
- Students will discuss the meaning and accompanying ceremonies of Yom Hazikkaron
- Students will discuss the special qualities of the Jewish Homeland

Key Words & Key Concepts

- Two thousand years of Jewish dispersion
- The return of young Jewish pioneers
- The birth of modern Zionism
- The War of Independence 1948

Key Terms

- Zionism
- David Ben Guryon
- Theodor Herzl
- Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel

Special Activities

- Participate in an event run by the Israeli Emissaries
- Eat Falafel that was prepared by the 7th grade students

Assessments:

- Express at least one ethical Dilemma in modern Israel

Unit 18: MAY - Yom Yarushalayim , 1 session, 1 hour

Goals and Objectives

- Students will learn of the unification of Jerusalem after the Six Day War

Key Words & Key Concepts

- War of Independence
- Jerusalem
- Six Day War

Special Activities

- Watch a YouTube that depicts the beauty and variety of modern Jerusalem

Assessments:

- Do you have a desire to go to Jerusalem?

Unit 19: MAY -- Lag B'Omer, 1 session, 1 hour

Goals and Objectives

- Students will examine the origin of the Lag B'Omer holiday
- Students will learn about the heroism of those who defied oppression to study Torah

Key Words & Key Concepts

- History and Meaning
- Heroism of Rabbi Simeon Ben Yochai and Rabbi Akivah
- Celebration
- Rabbi Simeon Ben Yochai
- Rabbi Akivah

Special Activities

- Bonfire on the patio with marshmallow and potato

- Bows and Arrows

Assessments:

- What is the value of torah study?

Unit 20: MAY - Shavuot: 1 session, 1 hour

Goals and Objectives

- Students will review the Ten Commandments
- Students will examine the story of the Book of Ruth and derive meaning and values from the life of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz

Key Words & Key Concepts

- Shavuot is the conclusion of the Counting of the Omer
- Shavuot is the anniversary of the receiving of the Ten Commandments
- Dairy foods are eaten on Shavuot

Key Terms

- The 13 Principles of Faith, The How-To Book, pages 149-151
- Ani Mamin, Yigdal
- The Story of Ruth
- 10 Commandments, The How-To Book, pages 147-148

Special Activities

- Eat dairy food, cheese cake or ice cream
- Bake with Mrs. Hilary Long (if she is available)

Assessments:

- Recall the ten commandments
- Why do we eat dairy?

Change Control

August 12, 2014

Added Note to parents

June 2, 2015

Added a Note on Leap Year

Minor formatting (e.g. page break before the Table of Content, p. 2)

Added the Gregorian months to each unit