

6th Grade (Kita Vav) Holidays, Customs & Ceremonies Curriculum

Overview

In Grade 6 students are learning holidays, customs, and ceremonies with an age-appropriate level of knowledge, building upon their knowledge from Grade 4 and 5. 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 Tzedakah, life cycle from birth to death, Tallit and Tefillin.

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 The Second How-To Handbook for Jewish Living
JPS Tanach and Humash Etz Hayim for citing biblical sources
Tefillin, an Illustrated Guide to their Makeup and Use (Neiman)
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, Tzedakah
Kislev	Hanukah (2)
Tevet	Life Cycle Birth (2) B-Mitzvah Tallit Tefillin (2)
Shevat	Life Cycle Marriage, Tu Bishvat
Adar	Purim (2) Pesah (2) * see note on Leap Year
Nisan	Pesah (2 more), Yom haShoah-Mourning-Shiva, Yom Hazikaron/Haatzmaut,
Iyar	Yerushalayim, Shavuot, Lag Baomer
Sivan, Tammuz, Av	

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

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 turns to blow a Shofar

Assessments:

- Questions & Answers

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

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 - The 4 species, The How-To Book, page 67
- Lulav and Etrog, The How-To Book, page 70

Special Activities:

- Decorate the Sukkah
- Shake Lulav & Etrog
- Sit in the Sukka 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

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 - Marriage, 1 sessions, 1 hour

Entertaining Bride and Groom, p. 27-31

Goals and Objectives

- Students will learn the Jewish customs of marriage
- Students will learn the use for the "Privacy Room" in the synagogue
- Students will learn that it is a Mitzvah to make Bride and Groom happy
- Students may learn about divorce (not if there is a sensitivity in one of the families in class)

Key Words & Key Concepts

- The Ketubah is a contract, a marriage document
- Breaking of the glass
- Periods in Jewish calendar when marriage is prohibited
- Visit to the Mikveh before marriage

Key Terms

- Ketubah
- Sheva Brachot
- Privacy Room
- Bride
- Groom
- Witnesses

Special Activities

- Attend a wedding, if invited, and describe the experience
- Look at the Privacy Room
- Write a congratulation card to bride & groom
- Research how modern Ketubot are made by artists (web search)

Assessment:

- Questions & Answers in class

Unit 7: NOCEMBER – DECEMBER Tzedakah, 1 sessions, 1 hour

How to Give Tzedakah, pages 52-53

Goals and Objectives

- Students will understand the source for Tzedakah
- Students will understand the underlying philosophy of giving

Key Concepts

- You have an obligation to give tzedakah
- Maimonides created the 10 levels of tzedakah

Key Terms

- Gemilut Chasadim
- Pushke
- Tzedakah

Activities:

- Give Tzedakah!

Assessments:

- Questions and answers

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: JANAURY - Life Cycle - Birth, 2 session, 1 hour each

Textbook: Brit Mila p. 54-57, Simchat Bat p 58-60, Pidyon Haben p. 61-65

Goals and Objectives

- Students will learn the rituals of Brit Mila
- Students will learn the modern rituals of Simchat Bat
- Students will learn the baby naming traditions
- Students will understand the origin of Pidyon Haben

Key Words & Key Concepts

- Brit Milah (Bris) on the 8th day
- Circumcision
- Naming a child after a beloved family member
- Godfather, Godmother

Key Terms

- Mohel
- Sandek
- Simchat Bat
- Pidyon Haben
- Mazel Tov

Activities

- Teacher try to arrange a visit from Mohel Dr. Dan Gottschall
- Write a congratulation cards to a family that had a new baby

Assessment

- Questions and answers

Unit 10: JANUARY - Life Cycle – Bar/Bat Mitzvah, 2 session, 1 hours each

Text: Tefillin, an Illustrated Guide to their Makeup and Use (Neiman)

Goals and Objectives

- Student will learn that Jews have a unique rituals for coming of age
- Students will learn that B-Mitzvah is held on a day that Torah is read, either on Monday, Thursday, Shabbat or Rosh Hodesh
- Students will learn that after the B-Mitzvah, a person is responsible for their deeds and are obligated to keep the Mitzvot
- Student will learn the source and importance of Mitzvah to wear Tefillin
- Students will learn the spiritual connection between a person and the divine

Key Words & Key Concepts

- Mitzvah is a commandment
- A bar/bat mitzvah is obligated to do Mitzvot
- Tallit has four corners called Tzitziyot (singular, Tzitzit)
- Tefillin are worn on the arm and on the head
- The Tefillin contain the words of the Shema

Key Terms

- Bar
- Bat
- Tallit
- Tzitzit, Tzitziyot
- Tefilin
- Batim
- Shel Yad, Shel Rosh
- Coming of Age

Special Activities

- Look inside the Tefillin and explore the Klaf
- Observe a video of a person putting on Tefillin
- Put on Tefillin in class and take picture of students wearing Tefillin
- Attend a Bar/Bat Mitzvah and describe one's feeling and experience

Assessment

- Question and Answers

Unit 11: 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

Assessment:

- Questions & Answers in class

Unit 12: 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 acronym 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

- Baking Hamentashen for Mishloah Manot
- Giving donations to charity
- Carnival

Assessment

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

Unit 13: 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 traditional food for Model Seder

- Recite Mah Nishtanah at Model Seder
- Recite Kiddush using special holiday Nusach with teacher
- 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
- Q&A at the Model Seder

Unit 14: APRIL - Mourning & Shiva, 1 session, 1 hour

Textbook: Sitting Shiva, pages 82-84

Textbook: How to Write a Condolence Letter, pages 85-86

Goals and Objectives

- Students will understand the customs of Jewish Mourning
- This class will be coinciding with Yom Hashoah

Key Words & Key Concepts

- Shiva is a tradition of mourning for 7 days
- Ritual hand washing when returning from Funeral
- The candle that burns for 7 days
- Rules if Shiva occur around holidays and Shabbat
- Comforting the mourner is an act of kindness
- Writing a condolence letter shows empathy
- Giving to charity in memory of a loved one

Key Terms

- Sitting Shiva
- Mourners Kaddish

Special Activities (Mourning Rituals)

- Light a memorial candle
- Write a condolence letter (when needed) at some point during the school year

Special Activities (Yom Hashoah)

- Yom Hashoah ceremony in the sanctuary, light 6 candles
- March with the Holocaust Torah
- Sing in the school assembly Ani Maamin
- Lighting yellow candles at home

Assessment:

- Questions & Answers in class

Unit 15: 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 Hazikaron
- 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

Assessment:

- Questions & Answers in class

Unit 16: 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

Assessment:

- Questions & Answers in class

Unit 17: 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

Assessment:

- Questions & Answers in class

Unit 18: 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, pages147-148

Special Activities

- Baking or eating dairy food, cheese cake or ice cream

Assessment:

- Competition 2- groups
 - How many commandments you can recall
 - How many principals you can recall

Change Control

August 12, 2014

Notes to Parents

June 2, 2015

Added a Note on Leap Year

Removed the visit of Ketuba artist Susan Madwed from Unit 6 –
Wedding

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

Added the Gregorian months for each unit