

Teacher's Guide

Welcome to The Big Book of Jewish Holidays Worksheets!

This workbook is designed to connect children with Jewish holidays through a diverse assortment of paper and pencil activities, including vocabulary puzzles, crack-the-code challenges, Mad Libs-style stories, coloring pages, word searches, and more. These fun sheets reinforce key vocabulary, introduce important symbols, and highlight meaningful customs and traditions associated with each holiday.

Ideal for both independent work and group learning, this workbook fits seamlessly into classrooms, homeschool settings, and community events.

Structured for Flexible Use

The diverse range of activities in this collection makes it easy to incorporate meaningful learning across different age groups. From simple coloring pages to more advanced vocabulary and logic exercises, this workbook is designed for both early learners and upper elementary school students.

This workbook can be completed in any order. Choose the pages that best align with your students' needs.

Activities can be completed directly within the workbook or photocopied for classroom use, making it a practical resource for any educational setting.

Ideas for Integrating the Workbook into the Classroom

- ✓ Independent work packets for early finishers or quiet time
- ✓ Holiday-themed centers or classroom rotations
- ✓ Take-home packets for families
- ✓ Community celebrations or holiday events

Understanding the Jewish Calendar and Holiday Cycle

This custom began in ancient times, when the start of each Jewish month was determined by eyewitness sightings of the new moon in Jerusalem. Because it took time for messengers to deliver the news to distant Jewish communities, an extra day was added to some holidays to make sure they were celebrated on the correct day.

Jewish holidays follow this Hebrew calendar, which means their dates shift each year on the secular (Gregorian) calendar. Most holidays begin at sunset and end at nightfall the following day. Some are one day long, while others can last a full week or more.

Why Some Holidays Last Longer Outside of Israel

Some Jewish holidays are observed for an extra day outside of Israel because of a tradition called *Yom Tov Sheni shel Galuyot*, meaning “the second festival day of the Diaspora.” This custom began in ancient times, when the start of each Jewish month was determined by eyewitness sightings of the new moon in Jerusalem. Since it took time for messengers to deliver this news to distant communities, the extra day was added to certain holidays to ensure they were observed at the correct time.

Today, even though the Jewish calendar is fixed and universally known, this tradition is still observed by many communities outside of Israel as a way of honoring the practice and preserving a connection to Jewish history.

Holidays Observed with an Extra Day

- Passover (8 days instead of 7)
- Shavuot (2 days instead of 1)
- Sukkot (8 days instead of 7)
- *Shemini Atzeret* and *Simchat Torah* are observed as two separate days outside of Israel, but combined into one in Israel.



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Jewish Educational Resources at Your Fingertips.

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Jewish Holidays



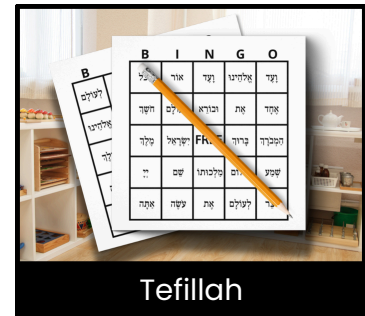
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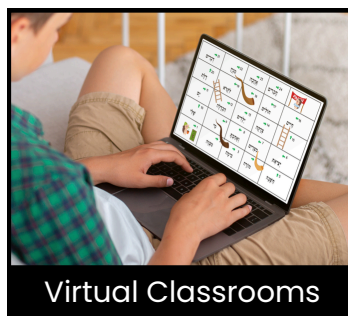
Hebrew Vocabulary



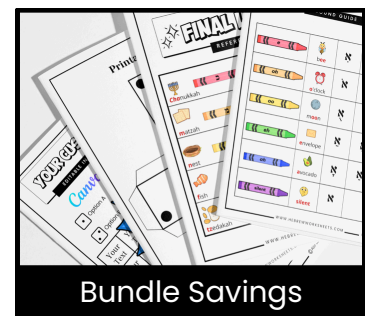
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