

# Teacher's Guide



**All About Jewish Things:**  
*Jewish Ritual Objects and their Meaning*  
**2nd/3rd Grade - Winter 2022/23**

## Trimester Overview

Over millennia, Judaism has developed uniquely Jewish ritual objects that enable and elevate Jewish prayer, and cultivate Jewish identity. This trimester, we will learn about Jewish ritual objects (especially those related to prayer), exploring the “whys” and “hows” of each object. Why do Jewish people wear a head covering? Why are there knots at the end of a Jewish prayer shawl? Why can't we touch the Torah with our hands? Students will gain a deeper understanding of how “things” can strengthen Jewish practice, and bring more meaning to ritual and prayer. We will begin the trimester celebrating Chanukah, and we'll end the trimester ringing in Purim from a new perspective.

### Essential Questions

- What are the uniquely Jewish ritual objects that enable and elevate prayer, and cultivate Jewish identity?
- How do Jewish objects (especially ritual garments) both identify and unify Jewish people, and where do these customs come from?
- How am I connected to Jewish ritual items?
- How can “things” bring more meaning into our lives?

### Enduring Understandings

- Jewish ritual items elevate prayer and connect us to other Jews
- The meaning and origin of Jewish ritual items is both universal and personal to each Jew
- “Things” can bring meaning into our lives

<b>Winter 22/23</b>			
<b>Week</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1 (12/4-12/8)</b>	Chanukah + Intro	Chanukah + Story + Golem's Latkes	2-3
<b>2 (12/11-12/15)</b>		Chanukah + Mood Meter + Beeswax Candles	4-14
<b>3 (12/18-1/5)</b>		Jewish Ritual Items Intro + Sunday makes decorations	15-16
<b>4 (1/8-1/12)</b>	What We Wear	Kippah + Begin Animal Keychain Project + Mini Kippah	17-18
<b>5 (1/17-1/22)</b>		Tallit + Mini Tallit + Gematria	19-22
<b>6 (1/24-1/29)</b>		Tefillin + Reminder Activity + Guest Speaker	23-24
<b>7 (1/31-2/5)</b>	What We Use	Siddur + Order Game + Create your own prayer	25-26
<b>8 (2/7-2/12)</b>		Torah + On One Foot Skit + Mini Popsicle Stick Torahs	27-29
<b>9 (2/14-2/26)</b>		Review + Jewpardy + Commercials	30
<b>10 (2/28-3/5)</b>	Purim	Purim + Megillah.	

## Week 8: Torah

**Lesson Overview:** This week, students will learn about the Torah as a ritual object. K-3rd students will act out a story about the Torah and create miniature Torah scrolls for their stuffed animals.

**Essential Questions:** What is the Torah? How can the Torah bring more meaning to my life?

### Schedule

1. Intro (5 min)
2. Yad Intro (5 min)
3. K-3 Skits (5-10 min)
4. K-3 Mini Torahs (10-15 min)
5. Hebrew (20-25 min)

### Goals for this Lesson:

- Connect to the Torah as a ritual object.
- Compare and contrast the siddur and the Torah.
- Recognize why we read the Torah and why we use the yad.

### Materials:

- Yad (one per class)
- Torah Scroll
- K-3 [Hebrew Color Cards](#)
- K-3 [Mini popsicle sticks](#).
- K-3 Velcro sticky things to stick torah to stuffy
- K-3 ["Torah Scroll" for decorating](#) (cut up 1/student)
- K-3 washi tape
- K-3 colorful paper (pre-cut to fit torahs.)
- [Memory Game](#)
- [Challenge Memory Game](#)

### Notes:

- Optional: [K/1 Prep Yad Song Video](#)
- Optional: [Prep Torah Video](#)
- Prep [V'ahavta](#)
- Cover floors or have students color Torah scrolls on folders on laps.

### 1. Introduction (5-10 minutes)

- Check in. Students can put on their kippot. Invite a few students to put on tallit to lead prayers. Sing Mah Tovv. Sing Shema. Optional listen to [V'ahavta](#).
- Look through the class siddur and read two or three students' prayers.

### 2. Yad Intro (5 min)

- Show students Torah scroll and Yad. Remind students that the Torah comes in all shapes and sizes but all the words are exactly the same. The letters are written on parchment by a scribe which takes about a year!
- Ask students if they know why we use a yad. The Torah is special so we do not want to get it dirty with our fingers. We use a special pointer. If you ever read from the Torah you will have to use a Yad.
- Think about when you've been to a museum and you are not allowed to touch the paintings. The yad helps us get closer to the special words of the Torah without ruining the letters.
- Optional: K/1 Show [Yad Song Video](#). Pause and debrief with students as necessary as questions arise.

## 2. K-3rd Improv Skit








- Assign one child to act out being the “student” and other to different Rabbis. (Can group rabbis together and switch “student” each time.
- Once upon a time a student traveled to Jerusalem to learn the Torah - but wanted to learn it only while standing on one foot.
  - The student asked “Rabbi(s) can you teach me the Torah while standing on one foot?”
  - The rabbis responded in a mean way.
  - Ask how the rabbis might respond.
    - Ignoring, calling the student a mean name, telling student it’s a waste of their time.
    - Repeat scenario. Each time instruct the student to act upset (frustrated, angry, mad, sad)
  - Finally the student went to Rabbi Hillel (assign parts). This time something different happened. Rabbi Hillel did not dismiss the poor student. He simply said: “Treat others the way you want to be treated. That is the whole Torah. The rest is explanations and not as important”
  - How do you think the student felt? Did Hillel follow his own rule?
- Optional: Show [Torah Video](#)

## 3. K-3 Mini Torahs (15-20 minutes)

- What is in the Torah? The Torah contains stories, such as the story of Noah’s Ark The Torah also contains rules, laws and advice, that help us know how to behave and treat each other with respect. Some prayers come from the Torah but some were written later.
- Students will create mini Torahs for their stuffed animals.
  - Students should draw examples of what it means to to treat others the way you want to be treated (lesson from the skit) on their [“Torah scroll”](#).
  - Then, tape the paper to the mini popsicle stick.
  - Roll the popsicle sticks together. Secure with washi tape.
  - Choose a patterned piece of paper as the Torah cover. Teacher should help students tape the covers so they can take off.
  - Teacher should help students use velcro to attach the Torah to the stuffies.

**Hebrew Vocabulary Review**

*Match the “thing” to the Hebrew word. Draw a line from the English transliteration to the Hebrew word/picture.*

1. Siddur	כיפה 
2. Kippah	תפילין 
3. Yad	טלית 
4. Tallit	תורה 
5. Tefillin	ציצית 
6. Tzitzit	סדור 
7. Torah	יד 

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#### 4. Hebrew (20-25 minutes)

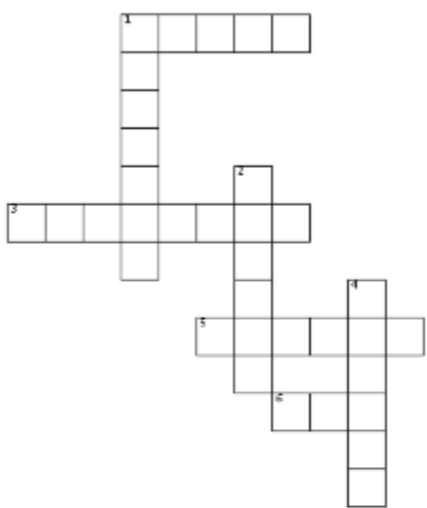
- Sing aleph bet.
- Play a Hebrew game or work with students in aleph champ.
- Students can play memory games to review Hebrew vocabulary.
- Students can work on p. 10-12 in their packet on vocab match, crossword and word find.
- Review “af peh ozen” since they just learned about the “Yad.”
- Review Hebrew colors with [\(Track 3\)](#). ([amy@figtreeprogram.com](mailto:amy@figtreeprogram.com), pw: figtreespotify)
- **Fruit Salad:** Hand out [color cards](#) so that two students have the same color (they should not be sitting next to each other.) Call out the different colors. The students who have the same word must change spots. If you call out “T’zvai’m” all students must switch places (challenge - switch student’s color cards).

#### 5. Wrap Up (5 minutes)

- Sing closing song. Ask students a trivia question to dismiss them.

**Hebrew Vocabulary Review**

Use the clues and word bank below to complete the crossword puzzle.



<p><b>Down:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the knots at the bottom of a tallit</li> <li>a Jewish headcovering</li> <li>a Jewish <a href="#">prayerbook</a></li> </ol>	<p><b>Across</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Jewish bible</li> <li>a set of boxes and leather straps that you wrap around your arm and head</li> <li>a prayer shawl</li> <li>a pointer for the Torah</li> </ol>
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**Word Bank:** yad, siddur, tallit, tefillin, kippah, tzitzit, torah

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**Hebrew Vocabulary Review**

**Crossword**  
Use the clues and word bank below to complete the crossword puzzle. The first one is done for you.

א	ד	ע	ג	ה	פ	י	כ
ח	ק	ב	ת	י	ו	ד	כ
צ	ש	ר	פ	ש	ר	ש	כ
י	ק	ג	י	ר	י	ד	ג
צ	ת	י	ל	ט	ם	ץ	ש
י	א	ו	י	ה	ר	ו	ת
ת	ט	ם	ו	נ	מ	צ	ב
ם	ר	ו	ד	ס	ז	ס	ת

Word Bank

קדור	כיפה
יד	תפילין
תורה	טלית
פורים	ציצית

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