

Commemorating Yom Hazikaron

Framing this unit

This poster, produced by Tzipi Berak Biyonsky, commemorates Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day. The poster is mainly sepia coloured, with some specific individuals in black and white. The image depicts a crowd of people standing solemnly on Jerusalem's famous pedestrian street, Ben Yehuda, during the Yom Hazikaron siren. Some people stand with their feet together and heads bowed, others look around.

In the left-hand corner an IDF soldier stands with the traditional salute for the siren, while seeming to look out at those viewing the poster. The sepia image could imply a modern-day scene; the black and white images, on the other hand, are reminiscent of older times. It is possible that Berak Biyonsky wanted to combine two time periods by layering the image with these characters in two tones.

In the bottom right-hand corner there is a black and white image of a soldier raising the Israeli flag at half-mast in commemoration of all those who have fallen. The text at the bottom of the picture reads, "Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers." At the top of the poster there is a quote by Moshe Ibn Ezra, the medieval Jewish scholar: "And my eyes will darken over if I don't cry for him, and my right hand will become limp if I forget him." The Hebrew word *kavod* (respect) is printed in bold above the quote and next to this are three birds, possibly doves symbolizing peace.

Group Activity

- What is Yom Hazikaron?
- What date is Yom Hazikaron in the Hebrew calendar?
- Why do you think that this day is one day before Yom Ha'atzmaut?
- Why do you think this particular quote by Ibn Ezra was chosen for this poster?
- What is the message of the poster? How does it relate to the day?

Besides the ritual seen here, what other rituals exist on Yom Hazikaron?

- Who produced this poster?
- Why do you think the poster includes images in both sepia and black and white?

Watch [this clip](#).

- How does the clip make you feel?
- Have you ever been in Israel on Yom Hazikaron? If so, how did you feel when you heard the siren?

Discussion

- What is written on the poster?
 - What is pictured on the poster?
 - Who are the people?
 - Where are they?
 - What are they doing?
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- Does your community commemorate Yom Hazikaron?
If so, in what way?
 - Does your country have a Memorial Day?
 - When is it, and what are the rituals of the day?

Creative Activity

Choose one of the people in the poster.

- Give them an imaginary background, job, and family status.
- Imagine you are a journalist for your local newspaper, and you have been chosen to interview Israelis about how they feel on Yom Hazikaron.
- Write the script of the interview.

Choose one of Israel's fallen and write their biography.

- Make sure to include pictures.

Primary sources in this lesson



Poster Commemorating Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day)