HOW WE LOVE ISRAEL 22 WAYS

Here are some ideas to start you thinking about ways to include Israel in your classroom. Naturally this list is not all-inclusive. You will probably come up with some terrific ideas of your own. Please share them with us and with other teachers!

t GO ON ALIYAH

Contact your local aliyah office. Ask for a speaker.

Find out if anyone in your congregation has family who made aliyah or is planning to. Call or write them for information.

Contact NAAM Ñ North American Aliyah Movement Ñ for materials.

c LEARN HOW TO SPEAK AND READ HEBREW

Plan a special project using your Hebrew skills Ñ dictionary, posters, radio program, stories, etc.

d PRAY FOR THE WELFARE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Study the prayer for the welfare of the State of Israel (found in most prayerbooks).

Write your own prayer for Israel.

s GIVE TZEDAKAH TO ISRAELI CAUSES

Have a tzedakah fair with materials from various organizations in Israel, e.g. Yad LeKashish, Maon LaTinok (see Gym Shoes and Irises, by Danny Siegel, for ideas and addresses).

Collect materials from UJA and Magen David Adom and earmark tzedakah funds for these organizations.

v VISIT ISRAEL AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE

Start a savings plan in the first grade of your religious school so kids will have enough money put away to go to Israel as high school students.

Visit Israel through films, stories and travel brochures.

Have a person or panel discuss Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Israel with your class.

Invite a guest to show slides of Israel to your class.

u CELEBRATE YOM YERUSHALAYIM AND YOM HAÕATZMAUT

Plan a school-wide celebration.

Have your class make a display for Yom Yerushalayim or Yom HaÕAtzmaut.

z LEARN ALL YOU CAN ABOUT THE LAND OF ISRAEL

Divide class into groups to research aspects of Israel, e.g. cities, climate, industry, agriculture, historical sites, important personalities, government, etc. Compile this information into a tourist guide to Israel and have it bound in the CJL Creativity Center. Locate the cities you have researched on an outline map.

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j LEARN ABOUT THE MEANING OF ISRAEL FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Study some Biblical sources about the land of Israel.

Talk about the Law of Return.

y SING SONGS OF ISRAEL

Learn and teach Israeli songs Ñ tapes and records are available everywhere. Include modern as well as old tunes.

Have a sing-down using songs about Israel.

h PLANT A TREE IN ISRAEL

Discuss all the occasions for planting trees Ñ in honor, in memory, in celebration of birthdays, anniversaries, passing test, etc.

Plant class trees in honor of the school, the synagogue, the Rabbi, the Cantor, the teachers, the students, etc.

f SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESERVATION OF NATURE IN ISRAEL

Research animals that live in Israel.

Research plants that grow in Israel.

Research zoos and nature preserves in Israel.

Make posters and models of the above.

k GET YOURSELF A PENPAL IN ISRAEL

Contact JNF about class exchanges of letters and information.

Make a large class book describing American Jewish life in your community and send it to an Israeli school. Ask them to do the same for you.

n BUY ISRAELI PRODUCTS

Go to a supermarket or kosher butcher and buy three items which come from Israel.

Have a class party and eat Israeli foods.

Go to the Judaica shop in your synagogue and ask for a display of Israeli products.

b SEE AN ISRAELI MOVIE OR PLAY

Contact the CJL Library/Media Coordinator for suggestions.

Show ÒShalom SesameÓ to your class.

x EAT ISRAELI FOOD

Prepare an assortment of Israeli foods for a party in class Ñ falafel, salads, humus, techina, etc.

g COLLECT ISRAELI STAMPS OR COINS

See if you can locate someone with an Israeli stamp or coin collection who is willing to bring it to class and show it.

Design your own Israeli stamps.

See unit in CJL Creativity Center Ñ ÒIsrael Through Stamps.Ó

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p READ AN ISRAELI NEWSPAPER

Buy an Israeli newspaper Ñ try to get a weekend (Friday) edition which includes a magazine section.

Look through the paper and do activities appropriate to your grade level.

Look for letters or words you know.

Look for advertisements of products you can recognize.

Try to find a recipe and translate it into English, then cook it.

m HANG A MIZRACH OR ISRAELI POSTER IN YOUR ROOM

See ideas for making a mizrach in the CJL Creativity Center.

Go on a trip to the Spertus Museum in Chicago and buy an Israli poster or a mizrach.

Ask your synagogue gift shop to stock Israeli posters.

e READ BOOKS BY ISRAELI AUTHORS

Go to the CJL library or your synagogue library and take out a book by an Israeli author.

See what books are available by Israeli authors at your local Judaica store or gift shop.

See if a Jewish book-of-the-month club has books available by Israeli authors.

r LISTEN TO ISRAEL ON SHORTWAVE RADIO

Find an Israeli station and listen to it. Try to understand 5 words or recognize an advertisement for El Al.

Watch ÒHello JerusalemÓ or other Israel program on television. Look up times and dates in your newspaper or cable guide.

a TEACH OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT ISRAEL

Create a TV program about Israel. Record it on video cassette. Show it to another class, then give it to your school library so people can borrow it (include reports, playlets, interviews, pictures, songs to sing along, etc.)

Make a slide show about Israel and show it to your parents.

, MAKE A SCRAPBOOK ABOUT ISRAEL

Collect pamphlets and pictures of Israel Ñ try asking a travel agent, write for brochures from American Jewish Congress and other organizations which run trips to Israel. Put them in a scrapbook.

Invite people to bring in photo albums of their trips to Israel and share them with the class.

Now you have the idea Ñ let your imagination fly and think of some more ways to love Israel. Of course you canÕt do everything, but pick some things you think will be fun and they probably will. If you get excited about a project, so will your class. So É