

SYMBOLS OF ISRAEL AND AMERICA

OBJECTIVE: To have students understand and recognize major symbols of Israel and be able to compare and contrast them with symbols of their own country.

LEVEL: Primary

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

It is assumed that students already have some knowledge about Israel and even more about the United States. Israel and the U.S. have much in common. They encourage immigrants from all over the world to come and live in their country. They are both democracies. They are both fairly new countries. There are many differences: size, population, natural resources, language and dominant religions.

The Statue of Liberty was a gift to the U.S., then a relatively young country, given by another country – France. The menorah outside the Israeli Knesset was given to that young country by another country – England.

Even though Israel and the U.S. are similar in size on the symbols pictures, it is important to point out to students that Israel is really a very small country surrounded by unfriendly neighbors, and that the U.S. is so very much larger and does not have to worry about defending her borders. A globe or map would be helpful.

METHODOLOGY:

Compare and contrast what the students already know with what you want them to learn. Each of the symbols has a mate.

POINTS TO COVER:

What is a symbol? In order to explain this, the teacher could ask the students to think of symbols of events or things close to their lives such as symbols of holidays, seasons, TV shows, etc.

What is Israel? Where is Israel? How long would it take to fly there?

Compare and contrast the symbols:

What is an orange grove a symbol of? Tell the class about the symbol. OR When you see a flag with two blue stripes and a Jewish star, what do you think of? Which country is it a symbol of? OR Where would you be most likely to find this? What is the symbol of the other country to match it?

HOW:

A “pick a pocket” board with cut out pockets is an excellent tool for comparing symbols. After talking about all of them, the teacher may want to designate one column as Israel and one as America.

Card games such as fish, concentration and lotto can be devised from the symbols by laminating them on index cards.

Bingo is a game familiar to primary students. The symbols adapt well.

A pizza wheel divided into equal sections with a symbol pasted in each can be used as an identification game, with a clothespin as the pointer.

Concentration – match the Israeli symbol to its American counterpart.

Israel

America

Symbols of Israel and America

Directions:

Copy the symbols sheets onto card stock or mount each symbol square on a piece of tagboard. Color symbols and cut them out. The cards can then be laminated or covered with clear contact paper for more durability.

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