



# Yom Ha'atzma'ut Learning Objectives



## Reception

### Birthday of Israel

- ✓ Know that Yom Ha'atzma'ut is Israel's birthday.
- ✓ Understand that Israel is a special country for the Jewish people.
- ✓ Be able to recognise and identify the Israeli flag.

## Year 1

### Israel Symbols

- ✓ Know how 'old' Israel is this Yom Ha'atzma'ut, and that Hebrew is the main language in Israel.
- ✓ Understand why we celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut and identify some symbols of Israel.
- ✓ Appreciate that Israel was promised to Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov and their descendants.

## Year 2

### The Kotel

- ✓ Know that the capital of Israel is Jerusalem and it is one of four holy cities in Israel.
- ✓ Be able to identify the Kotel as a holy site in Jerusalem, and know that it is an outer wall of the Beit Hamikdash.
- ✓ Understand why the Kotel is important to the Jewish people, and what we do there.
- ✓ Appreciate that when we pray to Hashem, we offer thanks and also ask for things we may need.

## Year 3

### Map of Israel

- ✓ Know the size of Israel, how it compares to other countries, and that the national anthem is Hatikvah.
- ✓ Be able to identify key cities and seas on a map of Israel.
- ✓ Understand why Israel is the Jewish people's homeland.
- ✓ Appreciate that many stories from the Torah took place in some of the cities in Israel.

## Year 4

### Faces of Israel

- ✓ Know the Hebrew date and month of Yom Ha'atzma'ut and how it is celebrated in Israel.
- ✓ Understand what the term aliyah means and what it represents.
- ✓ Appreciate how people brought their unique culture and traditions from all over the world to Israel, and why it is important to respect different traditions.
- ✓ Know that the military service or national service is mandatory for Israeli teenagers.

## Year 5

### Hope and Statehood

- ✓ Know a basic outline of Israeli history since 1948, including conflicts and other major events.
- ✓ Understand the importance of Yom Ha'atzma'ut in Israeli society, and how it is celebrated.
- ✓ Appreciate initiatives and achievements of Israel in technology, medicine, science and humanitarian aid.
- ✓ Be able to identify the first and current President and Prime Minister and some modern heroes of Israel and their contributions.

## Year 6

### Leadership and Innovation

- ✓ Know how Israel became a Jewish modern state.
- ✓ Understand that most of the Tanach and early Jewish history took place in Israel, and that Cana'an was the ancient name of Israel.
- ✓ Appreciate that Hatikvah expresses the hopes of the Jewish people, and explore their personal hopes for Israel.
- ✓ Be able to find in the siddur references of hope to return to Israel, the tefillah for the State of Israel and the prayer for the soldiers.

Reception

Birthday of Israel

Year 1

Israel Symbols

Year 2

The Kotel Jerusalem

Year 3

Map of Israel

Year 4

Faces of Israel

Year 5

Leadership and Innovation

Year 6

Hope and Statehood



# Yom Ha'atzma'ut

## The History of Israel

- Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov were promised by Hashem that their descendants will inherit the land of Israel.
- When the Jewish people returned from Egypt, they conquered the land under Yehoshua. It was first called Cana'an and later called Eretz Yisrael in the time of King Saul.
- The Jewish people lived in the land of Israel until the destruction of the first Beit Hamikdash (586 BCE) when they were taken to Babylon. They returned after 70 years in exile.
- After the destruction of the second Beit Hamikdash by the Romans (70 CE), they were again exiled. Although Jewish people lived in Israel continuously, the land was ruled by various foreign empires.
- Jewish people started to return to Israel in large numbers in the late 1800s and settled in the land.
- Subsequent Aliyot brought thousands of Jews to Israel, from war-torn Europe and Arab countries.
- On 29 November, 1947, the United Nations agreed to create two states, a Jewish state and an Arab state. While the Jews accepted this idea, the Arabs rejected it.

- On 14 May 1948, British rule ended, and Israel declared independence on what is now known as Yom Ha'atzma'ut.
- The surrounding Arab nations of Jordan, Syria and Egypt immediately attacked Israel in the war of 1948, and then again in 1967 – the Six Day War, and in 1973 in the Yom Kippur War. In 1967, Israel won the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Sinai desert. Two Lebanon wars followed later and, after an intifada, two wars against Hamas in the Gaza strip.
- Jewish people feel connected to Israel as it is the land promised to our forefathers by Hashem. For thousands of years, we prayed to return to Israel and Jerusalem.

## Israel Today

- The Israeli flag is blue and white with a star of David modelled on a Tallit.
- Hatikvah is the national anthem and it expresses hopes of the Jewish people. Hebrew is the main language.
- Israel is on the Mediterranean Sea in the Middle East, and its closest neighbours are Jordan to the east, Egypt in the south and Lebanon and Syria in the north. It is geographically small yet diverse, with deserts, beaches, mountains and lakes.

- Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. The Kotel is a holy place in Jerusalem where we pray, and it was an outer wall of the Beit Hamikdash.
- Israel is a democratic country and its main body of legislature is called the Knesset. The leader is the Prime Minister who heads the ruling party.
- Military and national service are mandatory in Israel from age 18. The Israeli army is called Tzahal in Hebrew or the Israeli Defence Forces in English.
- The first Prime Minister was David Ben Gurion. Other notable Prime Ministers were: Golda Meir, the first and only female prime minister of Israel; Menachem Begin; Yitzchak Rabin, who was assassinated by an Israeli settler; and Benjamin Netanyahu.
- Aliyot from outside of Israel are helping Israel to grow. There are approximately 6,700,000 Jews living in Israel. Some of the countries Jewish people came from recently are France, US, Canada, Russia and Ethiopia. Previous Aliyot came from North Africa, Yemen, Iran, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. All of these people brought their different cultures and traditions to Israel.



# Yom Ha'atzma'ut

- Israel returned the Sinai Desert to Egypt and relinquished control over Gaza and the West Bank to Hamas and the Palestinian Authority respectively. There are still Jewish settlements throughout the West Bank, also known as Judea and Samaria. This area is a part of biblical Israel that was promised to Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov and their descendants.
- Israel has become a global leader in medicine, science and high tech startups.
- Millions of trees have been planted in Israel. New irrigation and desalination techniques have helped Israel conserve water and farm all over Israel.
- Israel has many great universities and cosmopolitan cities like Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem.
- There are special prayers for the State of Israel and its soldiers read in some synagogues in the diaspora every Shabbat.

## How and Why We Celebrate

- The day before Yom Ha'atzma'ut is Yom Hazikaron, during which we remember those people who fell in battle defending Israel's right to exist. The official 'switch' from Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha'atzma'ut takes place a few minutes after sundown, with a ceremony on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. The flag is raised from half mast to the top of the pole. The President of Israel speaks and soldiers representing the army, navy, and air force parade with their flags.
- Concerts, parades and celebrations take place throughout Israel and in the diaspora. Thousands of Israeli families go out on hikes and picnics. Army camps are open for visits.
- Some people say Hallel in praise of this day, and consider it a modern-day Jewish festival, like Purim and Chanukah.
- The day concludes with the 'Israel Prize' ceremony, recognizing individual Israelis for their unique contribution to the country's culture, science, arts and the humanities.

