

Tu Bi'Shvat: A New Year for Growth, Sharing and Caring

Rational for teacher

Ages: Grades 4-6

General message of the broadcast: Tu Bi'Shvat marks the day when sap begins rising in trees; the beginning of a new season of delicious fruits from Eretz Yisrael, and a time for Jews around the world to celebrate their connection with the Jewish homeland. Jerusalem and the Western Wall are at the center of the connection and the place where the offerings of new fruits were once brought.

Educational goals:

1. Be able to explain at least three ways in which people and trees are similar.
2. "Hakarat HaTov" is a central concept in Judaism. Be able to show the connection between Tu B'shvat, The Western Wall, and gratitude.
3. Be able to list the Seven Species in their proper order and give the source of the order.
4. Be able to list two ways in which bringing Bikkurim to Jerusalem helped Jews feel grateful for Eretz Yisrael.

Content of broadcast:

- Live broadcast from the Western Wall with interaction between class and guide
- The Lesson of the Trees: Our Roots and the Kotel - A discussion of Tu Bi'Shvat as a New Year
- Prepare a basket of Bikkurim and use this opportunity for interaction. Discussion of brachot and the role of the Beit HaMikdash as a focus for the gratitude and unity of the Jewish nation.

Preparatory activity: **Seven Species project**

- Divide the class into 7 groups.
- Each group chooses one species and researches the species itself and how it was found in the Beit HaMikdash.
- Prepare the findings to present during the broadcast.

* *The Israeli Tu Bishvat song, which appear on the preparatory activity- can be found online at: http://www.zemereshet.co.il/FlashPlayer/player.asp?version_id=1884*