

Yom Ha-atzmaut

Concepts: Israel's Independence Day/Birthday; Israel is our home away from home; Hebrew language

Vocabulary: Yom Ha-atzmaut; Am Yisrael Chai = The Jewish People Live!

Props: percussion, Israeli flags, blue Sunshine Bear

Tips for Teaching This Unit:

1. Remind students about Passover story; ask them where the Israelites were going? Do they know another name for the Promised Land? Continue the narrative and act out being the Israelites walking to the Promised Land.... hold hands and walk/jump/dance/sing!

Going to the Promised Land ([audio](#))

Lyrics by Lisa Baydush, Music by Lisa Baydush and Lisa Ashery © 11/13/14

We're going, we're going, we're going to the Promised Land!
We're going, we're going to the Promised Land!

Walking, skipping, running, jumping, dancing...

Hurray, hurray! Thank you, God, for this day!
Hurray, hurray! We're finally free today!

2. Ask students if they have been to Israel. Act out **Travelin' to Eretz Yisrael**... airplane arms for the chorus; I am the tour guide. Children LOVE the experiential nature of this song! I've had great success with it up through first grade. The song works beautifully with imagination and movement, but here are some other ideas: show them pictures that accompany each verse, printed, projected or on an iPad; set up chairs in two rows like an airplane/bus; create centers with scarves for the shuk; flags for Yom Ha-atzmaut; sand for the desert; camel stuffed animal; etc.

Travelin' to Eretz Yisrael by Ellen Allard ([prop](#))

Chorus:

We're travelin' along (3x) to/in Israel.
We're travelin' along (2x), we're travelin' to/in Eretz Yisrael!

Gonna float in the Dead Sea, ahhh! (3x)
We're travellin' in Eretz Yisrael! (chorus)

Gonna climb Masada, oy, it's hot! (3x)...
Gonna ride a camel, bumpity bump! (3x)...
Gonna pray at the Wall, Baruch Atah! (3x)...
We're gonna shop at the shuk, how many shekels?...
Gonna eat falafel, yum yum yum...
Gonna say hello to Tel Aviv...
Gonna celebrate Yom Ha-atzmaut...
Gonna fly back home, l'hitraot (3x)...

3. Children wave Israeli flags for **Yom Ha-atzmaut**.

Yom Ha-atzmaut to the tune of Skip to my Lou

Chorus:

Yom Ha'atzmaut (3x) Israel's Independence Day (repeat)

Wave your flag and shout hooray (3x) for Israel's Independence Day! (chorus)

Israel is 68! (3x) on Israel's Independence Day (chorus)

4. Ask students what colors they see on the Israeli flag. Teach the Hebrew words for blue and white. Wave flags for 'blue and white' and 'kachol v'lavan.'

Israel's Flag is Blue and White by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))

Israel's flag is blue and white (2x)

Chorus:

Blue is kachol, white is lavan,

In Hebrew we say, kachol v'lavan (2x)

Blue and white up in the sky...

Blue and white for me and you...

Blue and white on Yom Ha'atzmaut...

5. Sing **Zum Gali Gali** with zooming motion and rolling arms; sing Yom Huledet Sameach for verse.

Zum Gali Gali (adapted verse) ([audio](#))

Zum gali gali gali, zum gali gali

Zum gali gali gali, zum— (repeat)

Yom huledet sameach (4x) woooo!...

6. For **Am Yisrael Chai**, shout "chai" and raise arms to the sky or better yet, jump; roll arms as fast as possible for "od avinu." Also great fun with rhythm sticks:
- Am Yisrael (tap sticks on floor together) chai (tap together up in air)
 - Od avinu (tap sticks rapidly on floor, alternating)

Am Yisrael Chai by Seymour Rockoff ([audio](#))

Am Yisrael chai! Am Yisrael chai! Am Yisra-e-el chai! (2x)(repeat)

Od avinu, od avinu, od avinu chai! (3x) Od avinu chai!

7. **David Melech Yisrael** is best with 4's and older. Teach the hand-clapping routine. Much fun with the opposites part.

David Melech Yisrael by Nachum Frankel ([audio](#))

David Melech Yisrael chai chai v'kayam (3x)

Shh, shh, shh-shh-shh, woo! (echo)

Abba (opposite) Ema (opposite)

Abba, Ema (opposite) Ema, Abba (opposite)

Abba, Ema, Ema, Abba (opposite) Abba, Abba, Abba, Ema (opposite)

Cain-Lo (yes-no); Geshem-Shemesh (rain-sun)

8. Dance to **Achshav!**

Achshav folk; English lyrics by Sarah Dekelbaum ([audio](#))

Achshav, achshav b'erezt Yisrael (2x)
Hey! Shiru/Tumbah (3x) b'erezt Yisrael (2x)

I love, I love, the land of Yisrael... /Let's sing and dance in Eretz Yisrael...

9. In Israel, they speak Hebrew. What Hebrew words do we know? Sing **Itsy Bitsy Achaveesh** with Hebrew vocabulary – Achaveesh, mayim, shemesh, geshem.

The Itsy Bitsy Ackaveesh adapted by Rick Recht ([audio](#))

The itsy bitsy ackaveesh went up the mayim spout;
Down came the geshem and washed the ackaveesh out!
Out came the shemesh and dried up all the geshem,
so the itsy bitsy ackaveesh went up the spout again.

The GREAT BIG Achaveesh...

10. Another fun song with Hebrew is **Hinei Rakevet**. Make a line with hands on shoulders and be a train. Go fast, go slow to match singing. Try it with percussion instruments: divide class in two parts, the chugs and the ding-a-lings, with the chugs playing shakers and the ding-a-lings playing bells. You'll need teachers to help lead each group; see if they can continue singing their parts simultaneously, while you sing the Hebrew verse. If this is too hard, give a shaker and bell to each child so they can play an instrument on both parts. Rolling arms on 'al galgalim,' which means 'wheels going round.' To simplify the Hebrew, sing English 'Here comes the train now...'

Hinei Rakevet ([video](#))

Chug, chug, chug, chug...

Ding-a-ling toot toot!...

Hi-nei ra-ke-ve-t she-mis-to-ve-ve-t (Here comes the train now, it's coming fast now)
Al gal-galim, al gal-galim, al gal-galim, Toot! Toot!

11. Get up and dance to **The Body Rock** (Scelsa), adapted with Hebrew vocabulary.

The Body Rock by Greg Scelsa, adapted by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))

C'mon and get that rock 'n roll in your ROSH, in your ROSH, in your ROSH! (head)
C'mon and get that rock 'n roll in your ROSH, we're doin' the body rock!

C'mon and get that rock 'n roll in your BERKAYIM (knees)...

Chorus:

Well you can move your BERKAYIM from side to side, dancin' with the beat!
And when you feel that rock 'n roll up in your ROSH, the feelins' are so neat! (sweet!)

... in your YADAYIM (arms/hands)

... in your RAGLAYIM (feet/legs)

... in your ETZBAOT (fingers)

...all over your GUF (body) (chorus)

12. Other fun songs with Hebrew for 4's and older: **Alef Bet** (Friedman) and **Ani That's Me** (Etkin). I think it's fun to preface Alef Bet with the ABC's.

Alef Bet Song by Debbie Friedman ([video](#))

ABCDEFGH IJKLMNOP QRS TUV WX Y&Z
Now you know your ABC's, this time try it Hebraically...

Chorus:

Alef bet vet (echo), gimel dalet hei (echo), vav za-yin chet tet (echo),
Yud kaf chaf (echo), lamed mem nun (echo), samech ayin pei fei (echo)
Tza-di kuf reish (echo), shin sin tav (echo).

Let's learn the alef bet, simple as it can be;
You'll learn the alef bet if you sing the letters after me!
Each letter has a name and a sound that it always makes;
Now let's sing this special chorus, we'll have fun
It will not bore us, it's the alef bet. (chorus)

Each letter has a name and a sound that it always makes.
Together they're the alphabet, the alef bet!

Ani, That's Me! by Ruth Etkin

I wave with my yad, I clap with my yadayim
I tap with my regel, I stomp with my raglayim
Hands – yadayim; Feet – raglayim
Sing a song about ani – that's me

I wink with my ayin, I blink with my aynaim
I hear with my ozen, and with both oznayim
Eyes – aynayim; Ears – oznayim
Sing a song about ani – that's me

I can sing about the things I do!
I can sing in English and in Hebrew too!

I'll clap with my yadayim, and stomp with my raglayim
I'll blink with my aynayim, and hear with both oznayim
Hands – yadayim; Feet – raglayim
Eyes – eynayim; Ears – oznayim
Sing a song about ani – that's me!

13. **Rooty Toot Toot Yom-Ha-atzmaut** is fun song with a clapping routine and movement.

Rooty Toot Toot, Yom Ha'atzmaut by Ellen Allard ([audio](#))

Boom boom, zoom zoom, ding-a-ling
rooty-toot-toot, Yom Ha'atzmaut! (repeat)

Clap hands..., hip hip hooray
on Israel's Independence Day!
Clap hands..., hip hip hooray
on this special day! (chorus)

Boom boom: pat knees
Zoom zoom: clap hands
Ding-a-ling: whirl finger in air
Rooty-toot-toot: imaginary kazoo

Clap hands: clap hands
Hip hip hooray: fist raised in air
On Israel's Independence Day: pat knees
For this special day: pat knees

Zip in after clap hands: stomp your feet, nod your head, do a dance, jump up and down, turn around...

Songs:

1. Achshav (folk; Dekelbaum)
2. Alef Bet (Friedman)
3. Am Yisrael Chai (Rockoff)
4. Ani, That's Me (Etkin)
5. David Melech Yisrael (Frankel)
6. Going to the Promised Land (Baydush)
7. Happy Birthday for Yom Ha-atzmaut (Friedman)
8. Hinei Rakevet
9. Israel Blooms All Around
(TTTO The Green Grass Grows All Around)
10. Israel Lives In Every Jewish Heart (Boyd Leon)
11. The Itsy Bitsy Achaveesh
12. Rooty Toot Toot, Yom Ha-atzmaut (Allard)
13. Travelin' to Eretz Yisrael (Allard)
14. Yom Ha-atzmaut (TTTO Skip to my Lou)
15. Zum Gali Gali (folk)