

Kesher Konec.....Jewish activities at your fingertips for Fourth to Eighth Grade

Z'man Simchateinu—Season of joy! 5 days after *Yom Kippur* we are commanded to rejoice! The Torah says we should “dwell” in the *sukkah* (plural sukkot, booths) through the week of the holiday. The *sukkah* becomes our home. Eating and living in this temporary structure both reminds us of our ancestors as they traveled through the desert and a time to celebrate the fall harvest. What an opportunity to physically separate ourselves from our material possessions, to be outside, and to find gratitude for the important things, and people, in our lives.

SUKKOT BLESSINGS

Blessing for Being in the Sukkah:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו
במצותיו וצונו לישב בסכה.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech
haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav
v'tzivanu leishev basukkah.

Our praise to You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of all: You hallow us with Your mitzvot and command us to dwell in the sukkah.

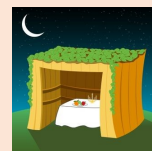
HOW TO START CELEBRATING

Build a *sukkah*! Remember it's temporary. It needs to be constructed so as to not blow away in the wind. With 3 sides, the roof should be covered only enough so you can still see the stars. Use whatever branches you have for wherever you live (cornstalks, tree branches).

Fun Activities in the SUKKAH

- *Decorate the *sukkah*. Be creative, have fun!
- *The mitzvah is to “dwell” in the sukkah. Grab a sleeping bag & spend the night. Make sure to look up at the stars.
- *Try to eat in the *sukkah* as often as possible.
- *Invite friends into the *sukkah*. But this year? Adopt the beautiful custom of “*ushpizim*” when we traditionally invite biblical “guests” into the *sukkah* each night. How about “inviting friends and family we can't be with this year—through zoom, pictures of them or retelling stories. about the special people in your life.

WHO WILL
BE IN YOUR
SUKKAH THIS
YEAR?



BLESSING FOR THE LULAV:

The *lulav* is held up in the right hand, and the *etrog* is held *pitom* end (pointy side) down in the left hand. Facing east, recite the blessing. Then turn the *etrog* up and shake the entire bundle three times in each of six directions: straight ahead, right, back, left, up, and down.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו
במצותיו, וצונו על נטילת לולב.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu
b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al n'tilat lulav.

Our praise to You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of all: whose mitzvot teaches us holiness and who instructs us to take up the lulav.

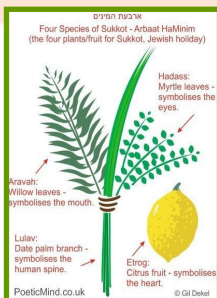
SHEHECHEYANU

The first time you wave the *lulav* each year, recite the blessing marking a special occasion:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו
והגיענו לימן הזה.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, shehecheyanu,
v'kiy'manu, v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

*Our praise to You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of all:
for giving us life, sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this season.*



Citron Sun Catcher (toriavey.com)

The citron is a fragrant citrus fruit, similar to a lemon but with less pulpy juiciness. In Hebrew, it's called an *etrog*. The citron is an ancient fruit. It has been used as a Jewish blessing since Biblical times, and it's one of the 4 Species for *Sukkot* that are mentioned in the Torah.

What you will need:

- *Yellow construction paper
- *Some string or yarn
- *Green construction paper
- *Scissors
- *Yellow tissue paper
- *White glue
- *Stapler

*To start creating your citron, fold your yellow construction paper in half, then in half again.

Now cut a circle by cutting an arch from one folded side to the other. Don't worry about being perfect, citrons are lumpy!

*Now you'll cut the inside sections out. This is sort of like cutting a snowflake. Fold your circle along the middle of the section you want to cut out.

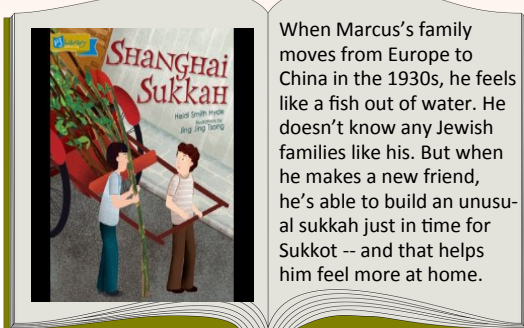
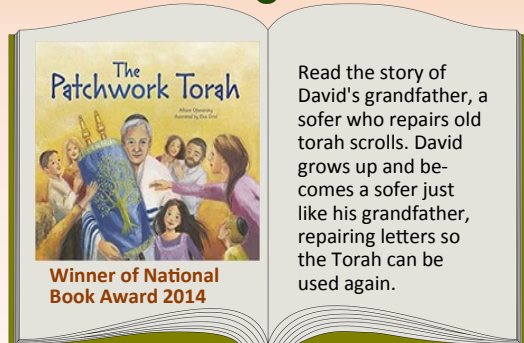
*Now it's time to add the tissue paper. Just cut a rounded piece of yellow tissue big enough to cover your cut-outs and glue it on with a thin bead of white glue. Let it dry a few minutes and then add your leaves and string with a staple at the top.



Simchat Torah—Rejoicing in the Torah!

Simchat Torah occurs on the last day of **Sukkot** when we celebrate the completion of the annual reading of the Torah. The concluding section of the 5th book of the Torah, **D'varim** (Deuteronomy) is read and immediately followed by the opening section of **B'reishit** (Genesis). We cycle back to the beginning giving us the opportunity each week to reread and reexamine the text and ourselves. It is a time of great joy as we dance with and celebrate the Torah.

Reading Corner



Chag Sameach
Happy Holiday

MAKING JUDAISM REAL

What can you do to protect our **EARTH**?

How can the **PRACTICES** of **Sukkot** connect you to our environment?

When was a time that you were **KIND** to someone else?

Is it **BETTER** to be optimistic or realistic? Why?

How are your **RELIGIOUS** beliefs similar or different from your friends' religious beliefs?

HOLIDAY HUMOR



BUILDING A LEGO SUKKAH



For all you Lego enthusiasts, here's a chance to use your imagination to build a **sukkah** using all your legos. Don't forget to check out the **sukkah** Lego Movie on YouTube.

CELEBRATE SUKKOT WORD SEARCH

I O A C M G W V O Y M L A P N
D A V I D A G Z R E B E C C A
G O R T E B H O G O M N P X J
S C H A C H S A Y R Y I E H B
A G L F T S E V R A H Z I R T
W A N D E R I N G B Q I G A U
Q W T S S U K K A H A P H C B
G I R T H A R A S Q N H T H C
K L E H O P T Z S M W S I E H
I L S C A N E O A Y Y U G L R
S O E F A E N S K L R R D X T
A W D J S A L K O K U K T X Q
A C K M L Y R Y M J U L F L W
C T N V J A C O B R D S A D E
T I S H R E I M N U Y W L V D

SUKKAH DAVID
SUUKOT MYRTLE
USHPIZIN WILLOW
HARVEST PALM
LULAV TISHREI
ETROG DESERT
ABRAHAM WANDERING
SARAH SCHACH
ISAAC EIGHT
REBECCA
JACOB
LEAH
RACHEL
AARON
JOSEPH

(Ophira Levant 2017)

- *Can you find the words in the right column in the left group of letters?
- *Explore how each word is connected to **Sukkot**.

What's In a Name?

Who are you named after?

Where does your name originate from?

Does your name hold any special meaning for you or your family?

What memories or stories do you have about your name?

What is your Hebrew name?