

Kesher Konect.....Jewish activities at your fingertips for Pre-K to 3rd Grade

Caring for the environment is an important theme in the Jewish tradition. The holiday of Tu B'Shvat. is celebrated on the 15th day of the month of Shevat, honoring nature and trees and is often called the "birthday of the trees."

# The Tu B'Shvat Story

טייו בִּשְׁבֵט does not a in the 📮 . It was decreed a holiday by the rabeled about 2000 y 🄊 🌮 🤍 🖸 . 🛛 🥐 🔊 🔍 R 🛛 🐜 ple were mostly farmers in Israel. Thad had laws of charity to foll, which required that they know the Ages of 🏆 🏆 🐍 when the growing y 🔊 🎉 gan. They ch 👥 סייוּ בִּשְׁבָט as the date for determining this 🎎 cause it came when the winter s were Over and just 🛯 🐴 the new 🞺 🐝 began 2 seen. They dec led that whatever bloomed after איי בּשְׁבָט was of the nU א איי בּשְׁבָט 🔊 . A 🏆 💑 came a y 🔊 🚺 lder on טייוּ בִּשְׁבָט. 👍 a farmer this was important information. When 💦 ple no longer were farmers (and no longer all lived N Israel), thA mostly lived in cities & worked at city jobs. But they alwAA represent this Rosh Hashanah L'Elanot (new y of 🏆 🏆), 🐝 cause it reminded them of the N Israel. And 🐞 cause it 🐞 came a d🗛 4 appreciating & other growing things. www.jnf.org

#### MORE WAYS TO CELEBRATE TU B'SHVAT

- Read The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein & make a **Giving Tree**
- **Research & create a Family Tree** 76
- Grow plants from seeds \*
- Donate to Jewish National Fund & help reforest land \*
- Plant a tree in your community

Tu B'Shvat is a time to appreciate the natural world around us. Did you know that on Tu B'Shvat Shehechenayanu (a blessing for gratitude when experiencing something new) is said when you fulfill the tradition of eating a fruit you've never tasted before, or one you're eating for the first time this season? Try something new and say a blessing!

The blessing when eating fruit:

Baruch atah A-donai, Elo-heinu Melech Ha'Olam borei pri ha-aitz. Blessed are You Adonai our God who creates the fruit of the tree.

The blessing of Shehechevanu:

Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam She-heche-ya-nu Ve-ki-yi-manu Ve-hiqi-a-nu Liz-man Ha-zeh.

On Tu B'Shvat we eat a variety of fruits and nuts that are associated with Israel. The Kabbalists (mystics) in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century, created a ritual for Tu B'Shvat similar to the Passover seder. SEVEN SPECIES OF ISRAEL

Why not do one with your family? (lot of ideas online).

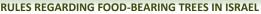
From these foods, there are 3 categories: 1. Fruits and Nuts with shells or peels: walnuts, almonds, pomegranates, coconut

2. Fruits with an edible outside and hard pit inside: cherries, olives,, plums, apricots

3. A fruit where both the inside and outside are edible: grapes, blueberries, pears, apples

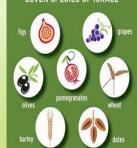
🧟 Something to Think About.....How Are People Like These Foods? 🍃 🦻

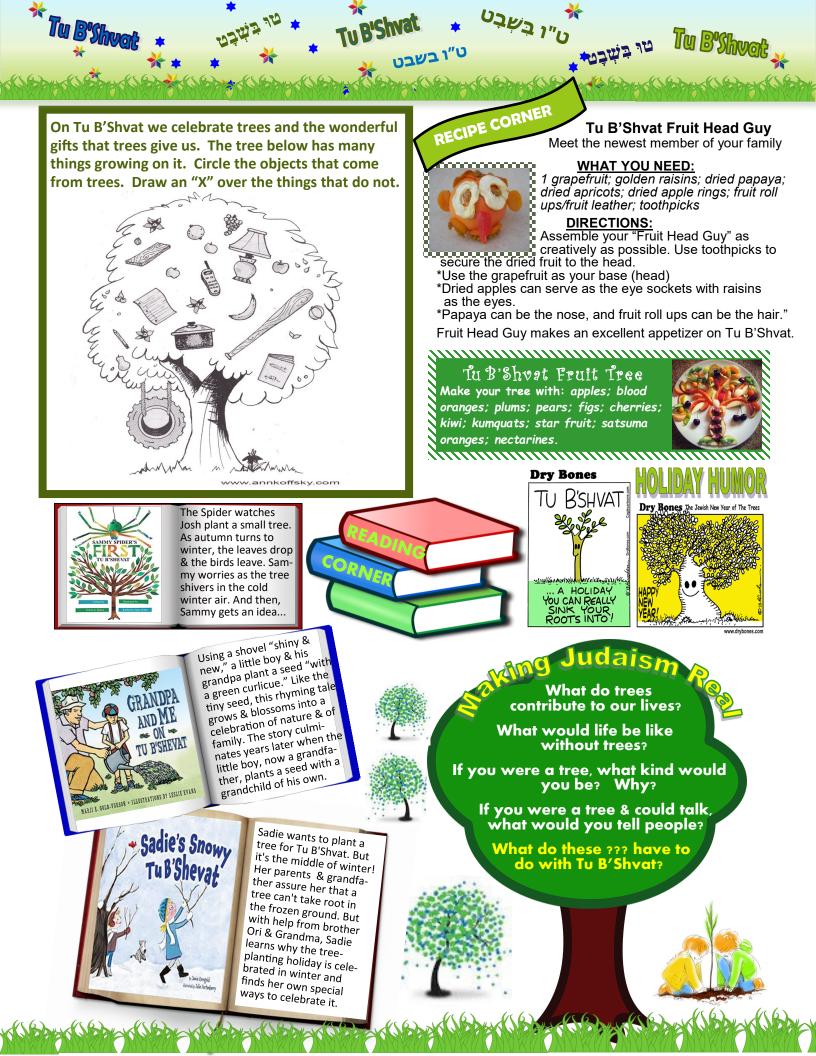
On Tu B'Shvat we reconnect to the commandment Bal Taschit: Do not waste or destroy. Let Tu B'Shvat be a reminder to recycle, reduce and reuse.



When any kind of food-bearing trees are planted in Israel, the fruit of that tree is considered forbidden and must not be eaten for \_\_\_\_\_ years? During the \_\_\_\_<sup>th</sup> year of the tree's life, the fruit is an offering of gratitude to God. 1. 2.

year, you may eat all you can! The tree gets to share its fruit and make the world a sweeter, happier, healthier place! 3. In the \_\_\_\_





# **TU B'SHVAT ACTIVITIES**



Tu Bysh

# Supplies:

- \*White or green card stock \*Acrylic paint: brown, green, orange, yellow and red
- \*Plastic plate or palette

#### **Directions:**

1. Use brown paint to cover child's fingers, palm and forearm.

2. Have child place his/her arm gently down on the paper. Make sure the fin-

gers are spread out. The hand should be placed in the middle of the paper to give plenty of room for the leaves.

3. Press down on each finger, the palm and forearm. Lift the arm straight up off the paper (wash the paint off child's arm and hand) 4. On a paint palette or plastic plate, put small dabs of green, orange, yellow and red paints.

5. Have child dip his/her fingertips into the paint. The fingertips are making the leaves around the tree. (Note: kids can add more to their trees such as grass, flowers and a sky)

6. Frame the tree using seasonal colors, with a green, red or yellow background.

# TU B'SHVAT CANDY TREE

Too cold to plant a tree outside? This tree can be the centerpiece at your Tu B'Shvat party.

#### **MATERIALS:**

ט"ו בשבנ

- 1 foam ball for the tree (a 2 ½ inch diameter makes a small tree)
- 1 terra cotta planter (size of your choice)
- 1/2 foam ball (to fill the planter & hold up the tree)
- A popsicle stick & green tape for the stem

more challenging, add in the fruits

- Toothpicks
- Gumdrops (for the berries)
  - Candy to fill the planter (e.g., caramels, jelly beans, chocolate chips, rock candy. Be creative!)

#### DIRECTIONS

letter)

- 1. Stick toothpicks into the foam ball. Push a gumdrop on to the protruding end. Repeat until the foam ball is mostly covered.
- 2. When you are two-thirds done, cover the popsicle stick with the green tape and insert it into the bottom of the ball. Finish covering the ball with gumdrop "berries."
- 3. Take one foam ball and slice it in half. Place into the terra cotta planter flat side up. Push "tree" into the planter. Fill the bottom with candy.

and nuts of Israel. (see partial list on page 1 of this news

### I Went to Israel and Planted a......

In a variant of "going on a picnic," each person in your group adds one kind of tree grown in Israel. In addition, each person must also repeat all things previously "planted" so far. This is a good review game of some of what grows in Israel.

SO THE GAME GOES LIKE THIS.......the 1st person might say, "I went to Israel and planted a date tree." The 2nd person might say, "I went to Israel and planted an almond tree and (adds what the 1st person says) a date tree." The 3rd person might say, "I went to Israel and planted a banana tree and (adds what the 2nd person and the 1st person says) and an almond tree and a date tree and so on..... To make it

# CARDBOARD ROLL FINGERPRINT TREE

Supplies needed: \*Cardboard rolls

\*Acrylic paint – red, orange, yellow, green, brown \*Cardstock – green, orange, red \*Scissors

How To:

1. Begin by deciding what kind of fall tree you're creating. (Green cardstock for apple trees, orange or red for regular fall trees)

2. Then cut a sheet of cardstock into a large cloud shape.

3. Cut two slits in a cardboard roll, one on each side. (cut a paper towel roll in thirds in slightly different sizes, too, for some variation in height)

4. Now, gather your paints and begin making fingerprints of leaves over the cardstock. Red apples on the green cardstock and multi colors of vellow, brown, orange, and red on the orange as well as red cardstock.

5. Let the paint dry.

6. Once the paint is dry, simply insert the tree tops into the slits in the cardboard roll.

You can have an entire forest of sweet, fingerprint fall trees in very little time! A perfect afternoon autumn craft!

SEE HOW GOOD YOUR MEMORY IS AND HOW WELL YOU KNOW THE TREES. FRUITS AND NUTS OF ISRAEL.





TOILET PAPER **ROLL BIRD** FEEDER

#### SUPPLIES:

\*Toilet paper rolls \*Bird seed \*Peanut butter \*String

#### DIRECTIONS:

-Cover TP roll with peanut butter -Roll the peanut butter covered roll in birdseed -Put string through the roll and tie in a knot -Hang the bird seed feeder an outside tree



Tu B'Shvat