



Purim People Graggers

Topic

Purim

Grade Level(s)

All

Goals for the Lesson/Activity

Students will

- Be able to explain why we use graggers on Purim
- Be able to explain characteristics of people from the Purim narrative
- Create festive graggers to use during the celebration of Purim

Materials needed

- Empty water bottles
- Colored Gravel
- Styrofoam balls
- White glue
- Curling ribbon
- Markers
- Crepe paper streamers
- Clear tape
- Goggle eyes, cotton balls, scraps of felt, etc. for embellishments

Background for Teachers

The wicked Haman from the Purim narrative is descended from Agag, who was descended from Amalek (Shemuel I 15:8-33). Amalek is infamous for attacking *B'nei Yisrael* from the rear as they travelled through the desert. Generally, the rear of a traveling party included the smallest and weakest members of the party. Thus, Amalek's actions are seen as a paradigm for people who attack the weak in order to achieve their own personal gains. The Torah teaches us that we are to both remember what Amalek did to us and to blot out the memory of Amalek (*Devarim* 25:17-19). God also promises to blot out the memory of Amalek (*Shemot* 17:14). As a result, when we hear Haman's name during Megillah reading, we shake graggers in order to blot out Haman's name.

Prepare in Advance

- Set up tables with materials for students to use.



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Description of Activities

1. Explain to students that there is a *mitzvah* to blot out Amalek's name.
2. Explain that Haman is descended from Amalek and that, as a result, we blot out his name. [You might choose to include more information from the Background for Teachers.]
3. Ask students what we use to blot out Haman's name. Possible student responses might include:
 - a. Graggers
 - b. *Ra'ashanim*
 - c. Noise Makers
4. Tell students that they will be making their own graggers today. These graggers will look like people from the Purim narrative.
5. Ask students who are some of the people that their graggers could like. Examples include:
 - a. Queen Esther
 - b. Mordechai
 - c. King Ahasuerus
 - d. Queen Vashti
6. Students make their graggers.
 - a. Fill a water bottle with a small scoop of colored gravel.
 - b. Carve out a small hole, the diameter of the bottle cap, into one end of the Styrofoam ball.
 - c. Push the Styrofoam ball onto the top of the bottle to check that it will fit snugly around the bottle cap.
 - d. Remove the Styrofoam ball and squeeze a drop of glue into the hole and then place the ball back on the bottle and let it dry.
 - e. To dress your Purim person:
 - i. Cut streamers in long strips.
 - ii. Tape the different colored streamers in rows all around the water bottle.
 - iii. Decorate the styrofoam ball to look like one of the people from the Purim narrative.



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Differentiation Options

Knowing that students learn in a variety of ways and modalities, the following options are provided to adjust the above lesson to meet the unique needs of your learners.

For learners who need more assistance

- Prepare a bottle with the Styrofoam ball attached. Students decorate the bottle and ball.

For learners who need extension opportunities

- Students reenact the Purim narrative by using their graggers as puppets.