



Hallel

Topic

Prayer (*Tefillah*), *Hallel*, praise, Hanukkah, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Shavuot, Pesach, Rosh Hodesh, Yom Haatzmaut

Grade Level

Intermediate

Goals for the Lesson/Activity

Students be able to...

- Identify when and why we say *Hallel*
- The ideas expressed in *Hallel*
- Apply their knowledge to compose their own poems of prayer/praise

Materials needed

- *Siddurim*
Either provide students with the page numbers to find *Hallel* in your *siddur* (prayer book) or provide them with a range of pages in which to look for the prayer.
- *Hallel* acrostic sheet template for each student pair (available as a download on www.Jteach.org)
- Pens or pencils

Description of Activities

This activity can be used as a whole class activity or as 1 of several self-guided stations. If you are using this as a station, provide students with the Student Guide (available as a download from www.Jteach.org)

Whole Class Activity

Background and Introduction

A collection of psalms called *Hallel* (*meaning praise*) are recited during worship services on Hanukkah as well as Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Shavuot, Pesach, Rosh Hodesh, and Yom Haatzmaut. Further background on *Hallel* can be found on MyJewishLearning. For the full text and associated commentary, see what the Rabbinical Assembly [wrote](#). You may choose to summarize this information for students and/or use it to inform your introductory discussion on when and why we recite *Hallel*.

Understanding and Application

Ask students to find *Hallel* in the *siddur*. Read some or all of the Psalms that make up *Hallel* in Hebrew and/or English. Ask students to share how and why God is praised in this collection of psalms. On the template, students write their own poem of prayer/praise in the form of an acrostic using the word *Hallel* as a starting point.

Prayer



Read

A collection of psalms called *Hallel* (meaning praise) are recited during worship services on Hanukkah as well as Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Shavuot, Pesach, Rosh Hodesh, and Yom Haatzmaut.



Do

Find *Hallel* in your *siddur* (prayer book). Read some or all of the Psalms that make up *Hallel* in Hebrew and/or English.

On the accompanying page, write your own poem of prayer/praise in the form of an acrostic using the word *Hallel* as your starting point, like this:

H
A
L
L
E
L



H _____

A _____

L _____

L _____

E _____

L _____

Name: _____