



Tu B'Shevat Experiences Through the Lens of Multiple Intelligences



Logical / Mathematical

- Research trees that grow in Israel and trees that thrive in your neighborhood. Create a Venn diagram to compare the types of trees.
- Generate a list of all the things we get from trees. Sort them into categories and write a thank you letter to God for the trees and the life-sustaining things they give us.
- Watch a video about dendrochronology (<http://youtu.be/-MqRz5cpNos>), the science of determining a tree's age by counting its rings. Hand out pictures of tree rings and ask students to count rings to determine the trees' age.
- Israel is a leader in drip irrigation, a method of providing the right amount of water to crops. Learn more in this video: <http://untoldnews.org/drip-irrigation/>



Verbal / Linguistic

- Create a Tu B'Shevat "Poetree." Use the Poetree lesson on JTeach.org as a guide.
- Brainstorm an A to Z list of words related to Tu B'Shevat. Use this list as a word bank to create Tu B'Shevat tongue twisters. Be sure to share with friends!



Visual / Spatial

- Create a tree using washable paint or finger paint. First, dip your forearm in paint and make a print in the center of your paper to form the tree trunk. Second, use hand prints and thumb prints to represent branches and leaves. Try using many colors. Thumb prints can also be used to make flowers and fruits.
- Build and decorate planters for your building. Plant beautiful greenery to create a welcoming environment for visitors.
- Build a bird feeder or rainwater collection barrel. Directions for these projects are available at <http://www.wikihow.com/Main-Page>
- Cut a blank poster board into "puzzle pieces" allowing for one piece per student. Share the quote at right. Ask students to think of some of the actions that they and their families can do right away to protect and care for the environment. Each student records his/her ideas on a puzzle piece, then the class works to put the puzzle together.

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Musical / Rhythmic

- Drumming circle, Tu B'Shevat style! Invite your song leader to teach students Tu B'Shevat songs. Gather drums, rhythm sticks, and tambourines for students to use during singing.

Sample Songs

- ♪ Atsey Zeytim Omdim
- ♪ Haskediya Porachat (Tu B'Shevat is Here)
- ♪ Garden Song
- ♪ Zum Gali Gali
- ♪ Etz Chaim Hi (Tree of Life)
- ♪ Eretz Zavot Chalav



Body / Kinesthetic

- Take a stretch! Play the JTeach.org Tu B'Shevat Animoto slideshow (found in Box 2 of the Jteach.org [Tu B'Shevat Blendspace](http://Jteach.org)). Then, ask students to strike poses to match the shapes of the branch structures of different trees.
- Set up a Seven Species Tasting Station. Bring in samples of a variety of foods mentioned in Deuteronomy 8:8. Ask tasters to record their reactions to the taste, smell, and look of each food using pictures and/or words.
- Grow like a tree - As a warm-up to any Tu B'Shevat discussion, narrate the development of a tree from a seed to growing upward and outward as a full size wonder of nature. As you talk, ask students to act out the stages of growth.

The Seven Species

חִיטָּה (Wheat)
שְׂעוֹרָה (Barley)
גֵּפֶן (Grapes)
תְּאֵנָה (Figs)
רִימוֹן (Pomegranates)
זַיִת (Olives)
תְּמָר (Dates)

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Naturalistic

- Compare and contrast the 3 kinds of fruits eaten at a Tu B'Shevat seder. Consider how people's demeanor parallels different kinds of fruits.
- Plant parsley seeds in little planters for students to take care of at home. If cared for diligently, they will have home-grown parsley ready for the Passover seder.

Categories of Fruit Eaten at a Tu B'Shevat Seder

1. Fruits with Hard Shell or Inedible Skins
For example: walnuts, coconuts, almonds, hazelnuts, pomegranates, grapefruit, bananas
2. Fruits with Pits
For example: dates, apricots, olives, avocados, peaches, plums, cherries
3. Fruits That Can be Eaten in Their Entirety
For example: figs, grapes, blueberries, raisins, raspberries, strawberries



Interpersonal

- Working with a friend, describe changes that trees go through as the seasons change. Choose a creative way to share your ideas with classmates.
- In honor of Tu B'Shevat, work together to gather fresh and/or canned fruits that can be donated to a local shelter or food pantry. If collecting fresh fruits, be sure to check with the receiving agency to confirm they take fresh foods and on which day they can take delivery.
- Create a survey on paper or using Poll Everywhere to see how many people in your congregation have planted a tree in Israel. Collect responses. Share results and provide participants information on planting trees in Israel. See www.inf.org.



Intrapersonal

- Create a scrapbook that includes goals and picture collages of how you can protect the earth. Include a plan for how you will achieve these goals.
- Create a Tikkun Olam journal where you reflect on protecting the earth, climate change, and recycling.