



It's More Than a Poster, It's an Opportunity Dove Poster

Use this dove poster as a beautiful art piece to enrich your classroom environment and as a departure point for Jewish cultural enrichment activities. Below is a list of suggestions to get you started!

ART

Our dove poster was created using browser-based [Tagxedo](#). The site features many shapes that can be used to create word cloud pictures. Create additional posters with your students using this program, or create word cloud art with a different program called [Wordle](#). Click [here](#) for detailed instructions on using Wordle. Once you gain familiarity with the sites, you will discover many ways to integrate these tools into your teaching. Try the following ideas:

- Give students phrases spoken by figures from Jewish history (or the *Tanakh*) and have them put them into the shape they think suits the person. For example, someone might create a bat for Sandy Koufax or a staff for Moses.
- Create shapes using words of blessings (e.g., a loaf of challah for *motzi*, an apple for *pri ha'etz*). Ask students what shape they might use for non-food blessings such as *Ma'ariv Aravim* (the moon and stars) or *Mi Chamocha* (a parted sea, a tambourine).
- Ask *madrachim* create graphics to hang around the room depicting the subjects you are teaching.

MICROGRAPHY

Though the dove poster is not micrography, it is reminiscent of the art form and might be used as a jumping off point to study the subject. Once your students have learned about this art form, challenge them to create a piece of micrography on their own using their favorite Torah text, prayer or personal poem.

Visit these websites to learn more about the topic of micrography:

- Micrography: The Hebrew Word as Art Online Exhibit at JTS
<https://www.jtsa.edu/prebuilt/exhib/microg/index.shtml>
- JHOM - Letters - Micrography
jhom.com/topics/letters/micrography.html

Visit the websites of two modern artists practicing the craft.

- <http://www.ellenmillerbraun.com/microcalligraphy.html>
- <http://www.raeandesigns.com>



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TORAH

- Read the story of Noah. Pay close attention to the role of the dove. The dove is most often associated with peace. Ask students to identify words in the narrative that lead the reader to see the dove as a symbol of peace. What word or words might they use to create a representation of the dove based only on the Torah story? What words and symbol might they use for the raven?
- Study the rules of *kashrut* for birds. The *kashrut* of mammals and water dwellers is largely based on physical traits while the *kashrut* of birds is based on behavior. Why do you think this is the case? What insights can you draw from the fact that the non-kosher birds listed in the Torah are all birds of prey? The dove and the pigeon are the only birds that could be offered as a sacrifice in the *Beit Hamigdash* (Temple.) Why do you think that would be the case?

PRAYER

- Have a prayer book scavenger hunt. Ask students to look through your school prayer book or the prayers recited in unison during *tefilot* (prayer/services) and ask them to find the word *shalom* or the root *shin-lamed-mem*.
- Learn prayers of peace and ask students to write their own.

BIRDS

- Learn the names of different birds in Hebrew. An interesting fact: In Hebrew, the word for dove is the same as the word for pigeon.
- Learn about the Jewish custom of *kapparot*. A good resource can be found here: <http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/kaparot/>
- In 2008, the hoopoe was chosen as Israel's national bird in a vote sponsored by SPNI, (the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel) Learn more at <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3549637,00.html> and <http://natureisrael.org/>.