

SNIF

CHOVERET

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5782



BNEI AKIVA
OF THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

ACTIVITY #1

TOPIC

Machane Hachana (Mach Hach) / Hachsharat HaYishuv

GOAL

To discuss and understand the preparation needed to make Aliyah in the pre-state days, and the challenges faced and overcome.

BACKGROUND

Before Aliya, each potential Oleh would prepare himself for the adventure. The difficulties and challenges awaiting them were daunting, but with great courage, Emuna, and commitment, they made the decision to come home. There was much to learn beforehand- agriculture, Hebrew, general training (seminar), and even defense, to make sure they could make it work in Israel.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

Supplies:

Bnei Akiva number cards (included in your hadracha kit)

Colored Cards (included in your hadracha kit)

The Trail to Tzion Calamity Cards (included in the game kit)

We created a game for you to use called “The Trail to Tzion”, based on an old game called the Oregon Trail. Each Chanich will need to complete a challenge in order to get their boat ticket and make their way to Israel. From there, they will need to overcome challenges to make it to the end. Each Chanich receives a certain amount of money to ‘invest’ in training points of 5 different areas. They will later use the points to save themselves from setbacks, calamities, etc, and help them move forward in establishing their moshava. If they make it, great! If not, well, better luck next time.

CONCLUSION

Conclude with a discussion of the hardships and challenges that came along with arriving to Eretz Yisrael and establishing a settlement, but also the resolve, dedication, motivation, and emuna that these heroes (yes, heroes!) had to make it happen. Would they be willing to do something like this? What would it be?

ACTIVITY #2

TOPIC

Kibbutz Galuyot

GOAL

Understanding the challenge of working together with Jews coming from all different places in the world towards a common goal - settling the land of Israel.

BACKGROUND

As the Zionist movement started developing and gaining momentum, Jews from many different countries and languages joined the band wagon and made their way over. While most kibbutzim and moshavim were established by set groups originating from the same location, communicating with other Jewish settlements were inevitable, and may have honestly been quite challenging, given the diversity of backgrounds and languages. So how did they get it done? Let's try to find out ourselves

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

Supplies:

10 meter rope (included in your kit)

A set Bnei Akiva number cards (included in your kit)

Make a big circle on the floor with the rope. Arrange the 25 numbers in the circle in random order.

Each member of the group will be assigned non-consecutive numbers that they need to enter the circle and touch, until all the 25 numbers are touched. But you didn't think we were going to make it easy, did you?

Only one person can be in the circle at a time. Chanichim must touch the number with their finger, and not step on any other numbers (this is really so that you can save the numbers for other peulot). And last but not least, there are handicaps for each chanich, which will make it hard to communicate.

**ONLY ALLOWED TO
SAY SHALOM**



BLINDFOLDED



**NOT ALLOWED TO
SPEAK**



**HAS NOISE
CANCELLATION
HEADPHONES ON**



**KEEP ONE HAND IN
POCKET**



CAN'T STAND



BLINDFOLDED



**HOP ONLY ON ONE
FOOT**



**NOT ALLOWED TO
SPEAK**



**CAN ONLY SPEAK IN
HEBREW**



**TIED TOGETHER WITH
SOMEONE ELSE AS 3
LEGGED PERSON**



**TIED TOGETHER
WITH SOMEONE
ELSE AS 3 LEGGED
PERSON**



In a normal setting, if the group was efficient, then it should take them around 40-45 seconds. Let's see if they can get it in under a minute.

Give them time after each try to perfect their system and bring the time down.

CONCLUSION

Discuss the challenges of bringing all sorts of different people together for something so important. Does the fact that it is really important make it easier? Would they be able to work together with people so different from themselves?



ACTIVITY #3

TOPIC

Anti-semitism - then and now

GOAL

To learn about how anti-semitism gave a push to Zionism, and discuss anti-semitism today

BACKGROUND

The “Southern Tempests” known as Sufot BaNegev in Hebrew, is the classic story of Anti-semitism. Someone kills the Czar Alexander II, who was trying to lead economic reforms to try to turn around the depression (which was also blamed on the Jews, of course...), and the Jews are blamed for doing so. This incited riots that spread throughout the Ukrainian region (then part of Russia), and included burning homes and fields, looting, plundering, killing, and other horrible things.

The magnitude of the riots gave a big push for a Jewish national movement (not necessarily Zionism, but for the most part Zionism.)

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

Supplies:

Playing cards

A sock for each participant

A 10 meter rope to create the safe space

Create a safe space in the middle of the room with the rope. It should be big enough to fit everyone in. Distribute the playing cards into different corners/edges of the room (perhaps 10-15 playing cards per spot). When you say go, the objective of the activity is to bring as many playing cards as you can back with you into the circle. But here's the catch:

- Have everyone put a sock on their hand. You can only pick up a playing card with a sock
- While they are picking up the playing cards, call out a name every 5-10 seconds or so. If they are not in the safe space by the time you call their name, they are out, and have to return all the playing cards to the spot and sit in the safe space. The person with the most playing cards who returns to the safe space before their name is called is the “winner”

EXPLANATION

What does this have to do with anti-semitism? This is meant to depict a pogrom. There is a mob coming and you have a very short amount of time to get whatever you can and get to a safe spot. What do you bring? What do you save?

You don't know how much time you have until they get there (when the madrichim call their name) and waiting longer is more of a gamble.

CONTINUATION

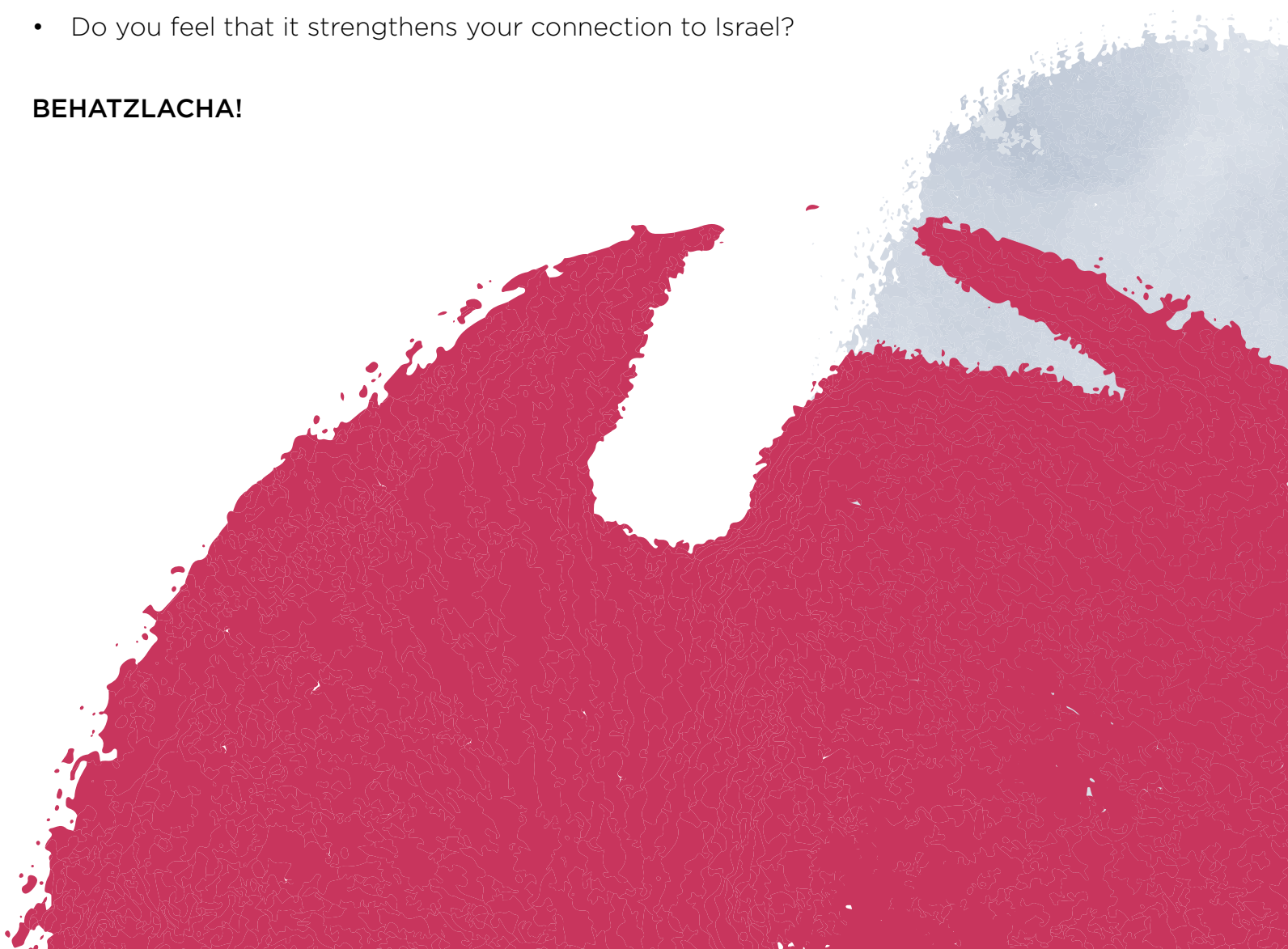
Those of the chanichim that were able to bring marbles into the safe space, ask them what each marble represents. Then ask them what the marbles that were left represent. Understand the loss and uncertainty of Jews living during those times without what or who to protect them. Let that sink in...

Now tell them that there's hope, because the Jews are starting to organize to move back to their eternal homeland and maybe establish a state...

Now would be a great time to start a discussion on anti-semitism today (recommended for 7-8th grade).

- What are the differences between then and now?
- How does anti-semitism in America make you feel?
- Do you feel that it strengthens your connection to Israel?

BEHATZLACHA!



ACTIVITY #4

TOPIC

Anti-Zionism

GOAL

To understand the apprehensiveness to join the Zionist movement, primarily from the religious, anti-Zionist side.

BACKGROUND

Although Jews have been making Aliyah throughout history (in very small numbers), there was a strong apprehensiveness to join the movement for various different reasons. The Reform no longer saw Eretz Yisrael as a central part of religion, and like the secular, saw it as ideal to assimilate into society. The Orthodox were suspicious of another reform-like split off, wary of the predominantly secular leadership of the movement, and some believed that remaining in exile until Mashiach comes is ideal. Those who were contemplating joining the movement may have felt the pressure to have to justify their actions, which many did so in a very convincing way. We want to try to understand that pressure.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

Ridiculous Charades:

Provided here are a list of Ridiculous Charades cards, which are made to be intentionally crazy and embarrassing. The type of embarrassing things that they would be very unwilling to act out, or specifically to be the first to act out. After the first couple it's possible that others will be more willing to. In any case, enjoy as hilarity ensues. Anyone who is able to have the group guess their card should be rewarded with a lollypop or other candy.

broken trampoline

Cow giving birth

Two giraffes fighting

Belly flop

Jumping off the swingset

Olaf (from frozen)

Horsefly

Raining cats and dogs

Talking to the dentist while
he's working in your mouth

Merman

Night at the museum

Sacajawea

DISCUSS

Why was it so hard to be first? What were you afraid of? Why be afraid? Have you ever done something that you thought others might think of you differently, or judge you, but you did it anyway because you wanted to, or felt/thought it was right?

CONCLUSION

It's not easy to break out of the norm, and do things that may seem odd or different to everyone else. Even if you believe it's right, and even if it's amongst your friends. With a new movement starting up, many may have been a bit wary of joining it, either because they weren't sure where it would lead them (it was new, deviated from the norm) or because of what others might have thought of them, perhaps are dissidents, new reform, coming closer to secularism, etc.

- Would you do something that would be different from the mainstream because you believe it to be right?
- Have you ever held yourself back because of what other people might have thought?
- Are there times when it's better not to deviate from the norm, even if you think it would be right?