Ji Bytes Shavuot "Create"
Teacher’s Guide
By Carina Rock
1. Can You Count the Omer? Ages 7-11

Sefirat Ha’Omer is the counting of the days which make up 7 weeks between Pesach/Passover and Shavuot.

This project helps children visually understand the period of the Omer and learn how to translate time into a visual diagram using a timeline. The holidays that are celebrated during the Omer period are also mentioned to act as grounding moments that can be used by the children in order to better imagine the time between the individual holidays.

Please note: Yom HaShoa is not included in this timeline intentionally, as many educators, parents and schools do not introduce the concept of the Holocaust until after 4th grade.

This project can fit into a lesson about Pesach, the Omer, Lag Ba’Omer, Shavuot, the Yamim, the Barley and Wheat Harvest, and more.
Focus

There are 7 weeks between Pesach and Shavuot.

- This period is called the Omer
- We keep track of the days and weeks during Sefirat Ha‘Omer

Students will explore:

- The concept of a timeline
- The concept of counting the days between Pesach and Shavuot
- The holidays celebrated between Pesach and Lag Ba‘Omer and where they sit on the timeline (optional)

Skills to review:

- How to log on to Ji Tap with student username and password
- How to access the create space on Ji Tap

Ji Tap skills acquired:

- Skills in making a Ji Tap timeline
- Knowledge of how to use the “Create a Sound Board” interactive setting on Ji Tap
- General Ji Tap Game creation knowledge

Teacher will be able to assess students by:

- With PRO Account Set Up:
  Go to [https://jitap.net/activities/](https://jitap.net/activities/) > My Dashboard > Students > Activity Created

Assignment: [https://bytes.jikids.org/topic/shavuot-omer/](https://bytes.jikids.org/topic/shavuot-omer/)

Use the Ji Tap App or [jitap.net](http://jitap.net) to make a timeline of the Omer, the time between Passover and Shavuot. Watch this video to learn how: [https://youtu.be/x2VwAkybkCg](https://youtu.be/x2VwAkybkCg)
2. How to Celebrate Lag Ba'Omer

This project explores the customs of Lag Ba'Omer. Students will deepen their knowledge to explore each of the holiday's customs before the final assignment is given. It is recommended to give a lesson about the customs of making fires, participating in archery, hosting a sports day and scheduling and upshirin on Lag Ba'Omer (a 3 year old boy celebrating his first haircut). Lag Ba'Omer is a holiday that has many different stories associated with it and many different customs have evolved from those stories. This project only deals with a few customs. It is up to the teacher to frame this project and create additional big ideas.
Focus

Lag Ba’Omer is a holiday that has many customs that are exciting and fun.

- These customs can be explored through pictures
- Pictures help people feel emotions
- Pictures placed next to one another create a story

Students will explore:

- Customs of Lag Ba’Omer
- Bonfires through pictures
- Sports through pictures
- Lag Ba’Omer visually

Skills to review:

- How to log into Adobe Spark
- The aesthetics of a photo collage and how it tells a story

Teacher will be able to assess students by:

- The images they choose for their collage
- The juxtaposition of pictures and graphics
- The use of text (optional)

Assignment: https://bytes.jikids.org/topic/shavuot-omer/

Lag Ba’Omer is celebrated by:

- Making bonfires
- Participating in Archery
- Having Sports Days at your schools or clubs
- There is a custom for 3 year old boys to get their first haircut called an “Upsherin” on Lag Ba’Omer.
- There is also a custom in Israel to travel to Mount Meron to the resting place of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai and to celebrate there, praying, dancing and singing the whole night long.

1. Go to Adobe Spark
2. Choose pictures of Lag Ba’Omer activities
3. Create a collage with text
3. What is Torah (Tanach, Written vs Oral Torah)

This project is about the Oral Torah and helps students understand what the Talmud is and the breakdown of a page of Gemara. Rashi and the commentaries are mentioned. A Ji Tap game is used to introduce the project. The project can be created on Ji Tap, Adobe Spark or on a piece of paper. More details about the Talmud can be added to fit each teacher's lesson and unit goals.

**Focus**

The Talmud is a conversation through time recorded in an organized fashion.

- It is important to see ourselves as part of the conversation
Students will explore:

- What is the Mishnah
- What is the Gemara
- What is the Talmud
- What is Rashi
- What are the commentaries

Skills to review:

- How to log on to Ji Tap with student username and password
- How to access the create space on Ji Tap
- Or How to log into Adobe Spark
- How to take a screenshot, how to print it or use it to create digitally

Ji Tap skills acquired:

- How to take a screenshot and use it as a base to create
- How to use the Ji Tap interactive setting "Create a Sound Board" to create an interactive poster

Teacher will be able to assess students by:

- With PRO Account Set Up:
  Go to https://jitap.net/activities/ >> My Dashboard >> Students >> Activity Created

Assignment: https://bytes.jikids.org/topic/shavuot-torah

Play this game to learn how to understand the Talmud and make your own page of Gemara. When you are done playing this game, use your screenshot or download the image to the left to create your page of Gemara on the Ji Tap App, jitap.net or Adobe Spark. https://jitap.net/activities/gaix/play/dive-into-the-world-of-talmud
4. Ready for Ruth

The story of Ruth is so complex and multifaceted. Each character in the story has difficult decisions to make and shows conviction and commitment. A video documentary is a simple and powerful way to dive into a character and explore the Megillah. The added layer of imagining that character living today adds relevance and a chance to see their struggles and strength as real and tangible.

Focus

- Megilat Ruth has strong characters that can teach us a lot about life today
Students will explore:

- How images juxtaposed with words tell powerful stories
- The story of Ruth through its characters
- How struggles experienced long ago are still relevant today

Skills to Review:

- How to log into Adobe Spark
- The aesthetics of photo or video documentary and how it tells a story

Assignment: [https://bytes.jikids.org/topic/shavuot-ruth](https://bytes.jikids.org/topic/shavuot-ruth)

Pick a character from Megillat Ruth and think of how they would look and who they would be in today’s world. For example, maybe Boaz would be a businessman and live in Kansas, managing agriculture, or Boaz could be like this farmer from Canada... [https://youtu.be/5KF3G7quLcg](https://youtu.be/5KF3G7quLcg)

Make an Adobe Spark video documentary about the character you chose and their life in today’s world.

Once in Adobe Spark chose the “Personal Growth” template for your video. Follow the prompts to create your documentary.

Use this tutorial to help you: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2oyYMTjDQg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2oyYMTjDQg)

List of main characters in Megillat Ruth for you to choose from:

- Naomi
- Elimelech, Naomi’s husband
- Naomi’s sons, Machlon, and Kilyon, their wives, Orpah and Ruth
- Naomi’s relative, Boaz
5. David: King of Israel

Blending hands-on creativity and digital creation is always a nice combination. This project offers the student the ability to choose what medium they would most like to use to create a picture of King David and even gives them the option of searching for an image of their liking. This project can be preceded by an exploration of King David, his life and achievements. Many artists, like Raanan, create portraits of King David that capture his love of music and poetry as well as his love of G!d and the Jewish people. Talking to your students about King David and focussing on his creativity and devoted nature can give your students the inspiration to create a portrait that captures these aspects of King David and brings their art to life. If your students choose to paint or draw, they end up with their original art and a fun digital puzzle.
Focus

- There are many features to King David's leadership
- King David was known for many different reasons
- All of the things King David did make up his character and essence

Students will explore:

- The life and actions of King David
- Hands on art or digital art or curation

Skills to Review:

- How to download an image from the internet and upload it to Ji Tap

Ji Tap Skills Acquired:

- How to insert and image
- How the use the interactive setting of “Cut a Shape Puzzle”

Teacher will be able to assess students by:

- With PRO Account Set Up:
  Go to https://jitap.net/activities/ >> My Dashboard >> Students >> Activity Created
- If the portrait of King David represents the facts and aspects of King David’s Character taught

Assignment: https://bytes.jikids.org/topic/shavuot-david/create

Draw a portrait of King David and turn it into a puzzle on the Ji Tap App or on jitap.net. You can draw, paint, use Ji Tap to make a digital drawing or find an image of King David.

Watch this video to help you: https://youtu.be/AGm9QCk8yIo
6. Who knows 10? Aseret HaDibrot

Ji Studio is a great tool for putting sound, images and sound together! Use this project as a creative assessment for any lesson involving the 10 Commandments. Songs, raps and poems lend themselves to working well with order and numbers. Have your students use the rhythm of the numbering or the ratio of positive vs negative commandments as a jumping point for inspiration or cadence.

Focus
- Using our words in creative ways helps us understand and remember complicated information
Students will explore:

- The 10 Commandments
- Their rhythm and cadence

Skills to review:

- How to log in to Ji Studio

Ji Studio skills acquired:

- How to add images, text and sound

Teacher will be able to assess students by:

- Having their students share their work

Assignment: [https://bytes.jikids.org/topic/shavuot-aseret_hadibrot/create](https://bytes.jikids.org/topic/shavuot-aseret_hadibrot/create)

Create an Aseret HaDibrot song, rap or poem and record it on Ji Studio.

Watch this video to show you how: [https://youtu.be/j9DG1Pl8yHs](https://youtu.be/j9DG1Pl8yHs)
7. Top Chef: Shavuot

There are many different brands of dairy products in Israel. Here are some examples:

Over the years these brands have created advertisements and Shavuot is their holiday. This project allows students to connect to the holiday of Shavuot and to Israel through food. Resources from the National Library of Israel allow us to travel through time and explore media from different periods of history, giving us a glimpse of the culture and technologies of those times.
Focus

● The way we relate to food tells us about our values and can tell us about our culture

Students will explore:

● Israeli dairy
● Advertisement and how mass media is connected to Judaism in Israel
● How to create an add

Skills to review:

● How to use chosen digital creation tool

Ji Tap skills acquired:

● How to use words and images to appeal to popular culture

Assignment: https://bytes.jikids.org/topic/shavuot-food/create

Browse through these historical advertisements for dairy products and other foods eaten over Shavuot from the Education Website of the National Library of Israel: https://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLIS/en/Education/Pages/itemPage.aspx?ItemID=EDU_XML_ENGSP5

Use https://sketch.io/sketchpad/ or another program like the Adobe Apps or Adobe Spark to create an advertisement for a Israeli dairy company like Tnuva.
8. Name That Holiday: Shavuot

Shavuot has five names:
1. Chag Matan Torateinu
2. Chag Habikkurim
3. Chag Hashavuot
4. Chag Hakatzir
5. Atzeret

This project focuses on Chag Habikkurim. Prior to assigning this project teachers may choose to teach about all the names of Shavuot or just focus on the aspect of Shavuot that involves Bikkurim, its ancient rituals and the customs we take part in today that celebrate the aspect of Shavuot that is connected to Bikkurim. The resources from the National Library of Israel help us understand how Bikkurim were culturally interpreted in Israel. A discussion about different Israeli subcultures and their connection to Shavuot and Bikkurim could be a worthwhile discussion with upper elementary and middle school students.
Focus

Bikkurim were a mitzvah in Temple times that was connected to the harvest and Shavuot.

- What do older pictures tell us about how Israeli’s related to Shavuot at the time each image was created?

Students will explore:

- Historical Art representing Bikkurim
- The different names of Shavuot
- How Shavuot is celebrated

Assignment: https://bytes.jikids.org/topic/shavuot-names

Shavuot has five names

1. Chag Matan Torateinu
2. Chag Habikkurim
3. Chag Hashavuot
4. Chag Hakatzir
5. Atzeret

Draw a picture The Bikkurim with https://www.autodraw.com/

Find images of different communities celebrating Shavuot and the Bikkurim from the Education Website of the National Library of Israel: http://processing.nli.org.il/sites/ManofEng/PriteyHinuch/ManofDocuments/%D7%93%D7%A3%D7%A2%D7%91%D7%95%D7%93%D7%94_Bikkurim_Primary_Sources.pdf?ga=2.47615200.650035024.1588128357-1190935510.1588128354

This PDF was taken from The National Library of Israel’s Educational Website: https://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLIS/en/Education/Pages/itemPage.aspx?ItemID=EDU_XML_ENGSP1044
9. Up All Night - *People of the Book/Naa’seh V’Nishma*

The idea of celebrating the Torah by learning Torah is a beautiful one. On Shavuot we try to increase our Torah learning and many try to stay up all night learning Torah. Making this E-Book on Ji Studio is in preparation for Shavuot. The chosen topic is Shabbat but any topic may be substituted.

**Focus**

- The Torah was given on Shavuot and the custom of increasing our Torah learning expresses our gratitude to God for having given us this wondrous gift called the Torah.

**Students will explore:**

- A Torah or Jewish Life subject
- Teaching others about what they have learned
Skills to review:

- How to login to Ji Studio and choose E-Book

Ji Studio skills acquired:

- How to make an E-Book
- How to use the images, text and sound

Teacher will be able to assess students by:

- Having their students share their books

Assignment: [https://bytes.jikids.org/topic/shavuot-learning/create](https://bytes.jikids.org/topic/shavuot-learning/create)

Pick one Torah or Jewish Topic that you would like to learn about and teach in honor of Shavuot. Create a Ji Studio E-Book to share your learning with your friends and family.

Watch this video to see how to create an interactive e-book all about Shabbat!!

[https://youtu.be/94slAeDc3sE](https://youtu.be/94slAeDc3sE)

Play this Ji Tap game to learn about Shabbat and see an example of Shabbat learning on Ji Tap.

[https://jitap.net/activities/g5zz/play/](https://jitap.net/activities/g5zz/play/)