



EDUCATOR GUIDE

Ji Connect



'Interact with Judaism' is a collaboration between **Jewish Interactive** and **RE:ONLINE**, aimed at teachers and children in non-Jewish settings who want to find out more about Judaism. <http://jewishinteractive.org>

This educator guide has been developed with the support of **Pears Foundation**: <http://www.pearsfoundation.org.uk> and **Culham St Gabriel's Trust**: <http://cstg.org.uk>

RE:ONLINE is the main provider of free, quality-assured online support for religious education in the UK, containing guidance for RE leaders and thousands of practical resources for teachers: <http://www.reonline.org.uk>



Ji CONNECT EDUCATOR GUIDE

OVERVIEW

Ji Connect celebrates the cultural diversity of the Jewish people in a visually stimulating and active way, connecting Jews around the world. Users tap people at the Western Wall in Jerusalem and are transported to their countries to look at their synagogues, history and customs. They hear how they welcome the *Shabbat* (Sabbath) in that country, and how they sing the song *Lecha Dodi*. It is a tool to encourage pride in identity, tolerance, and to celebrate cultural similarities and differences. Children also learn that even though tunes and customs may vary from country to country, Jews still sing the same song every Friday night, no matter where they are. Although aimed at children aged 6 to 11, this app can be enjoyed by Jews of all ages.

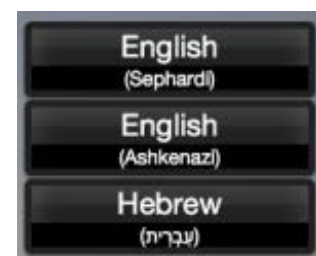
HOME SCREEN

Ji Connect begins with a beautiful photograph of the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem, and though Shabbat is celebrated by Jews throughout the world, it is in the Old City of Jerusalem where the diversity of the Jewish people is most clearly expressed. Every Friday night, thousands of Jews from different walks of life visit the *Kotel* (which is the Hebrew term for the Western Wall) in the Old City of Jerusalem to welcome the Shabbat, and it is this diverse mix of cultures that occurs each week that *Ji Connect* seeks to explore and celebrate.



LANGUAGE SETTINGS

On the home screen are language settings, enabling the player to be given instructions in either English or Hebrew. However, there are actually two settings for English: 'Sephardi' or 'Ashkenazi'. These terms refer to the accent in which the Hebrew words are pronounced. By selecting 'English Sephardi' it means that the instructions in *Ji Connect* will be given in English while the Hebrew words used in the game will be pronounced with a modern Israeli/Sephardi accent (for example, the English word 'Sabbath' will be pronounced as 'Shabbat'), whereas by selecting 'English Ashkenazi', it means that those same Hebrew words will be pronounced with a north European accent (for example, the English word 'Sabbath' will be pronounced as 'Shabbos'). The reason for these differences is similar to the reason why different people in the same country talk with different accents, which is that geography influences not only the language they speak, but also the way they speak.



WHAT IS THE KOTEL?

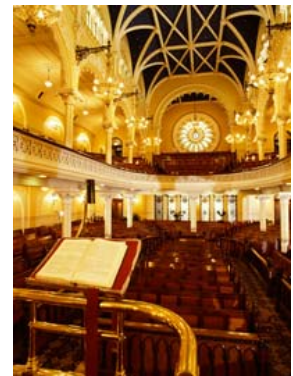
Once a player has selected a language, they then proceed to the *Kotel*. The Hebrew word *Kotel* - which literally means 'wall' - is the shortened version of the Hebrew term '*HaKotel HaMa'aravi*' which means 'the Western Wall'. This refers to the Western Wall of the Temple Mount that was built by King Herod just over 2,000 years ago to surround and glorify the Second Temple in Jerusalem.



Not long after Herod built this wall, the Romans destroyed the Temple in 70ce. However, the *Kotel* - which is the oldest wall that stood closest to the Temple - was not destroyed. Since then, Jews have prayed at the *Kotel* and hoped for a time when the Third Temple will be rebuilt.

WHY DO JEWISH MEN AND WOMEN NOT PRAY TOGETHER?

Players will notice that men and women do not pray together at the *Kotel* but are separated by a small divider. The reason for this dates back to the Temple period, at which time it was instituted that men and women pray separately to help them maintain concentration when worshipping God. This practice continues today, and all Orthodox Jewish synagogues can be identified by having a small divider, or sometimes a separate balcony, to separate men and women in prayer (A beautiful example of this can be seen in the photograph of The Great Shul in Sydney, Australia).



CANDLES

Upon arriving at the *Kotel* the player is given instructions by two characters in the form of lit candles, called *Zachor* and *Shamor*. However, to understand the significance of the characters, a little background is necessary.

The Talmud instructs all Jews to light a candle at the onset of Shabbat so that their homes would be illuminated (Note that Orthodox Jewish law forbids lighting candles on Shabbat itself). Over time, it became customary to light two candles, and although many reasons have been given for why two candles are lit, the most famous is that they represent the two aspects of Shabbat expressed by the two formulations of the 4th commandment given at Mount Sinai. In Exodus 20:8 we read that the Jewish people were told to *Zachor* (literally, 'remember') Shabbat, which the Rabbis understood to mean that Jews should perform positive acts to sanctify Shabbat, while in Deuteronomy 5:12 they were told to *Shamor* (literally, 'guard') Shabbat, which the Rabbis understood to mean that Jews should refrain from performing certain acts on Shabbat (such as lighting candles). Therefore, the two candles lit at the onset of Shabbat remind every Jew of these two aspects of Shabbat observance.



ABOUT LECHA DODI

The player is now introduced to the *Lecha Dodi* which is the name of a beautiful song about Shabbat written in Safed by Rabbi Shlomo Halevi Alkabetz (1500-1580). *Lecha Dodi* is sung on a Friday night in synagogues throughout the world at around sunset, which is when Shabbat begins.

Lecha Dodi literally means ‘Let’s go, my friend’, and in this song, Rabbi Alkabetz describes the joyful way in which Jews welcome Shabbat, in the same way that a groom walks excitedly towards his bride ahead of their wedding ceremony. It is this theme which inspired Rabbi Alkabetz to write the chorus which reads ‘Let’s go, my friend, towards the bride, and receive the presence of Shabbat.’ Below are the words of the *Lecha Dodi* in both Hebrew and English as they appear in *Ji Connect*:



Let's go, my friend, towards the bride, and receive the presence of Shabbat.	לְכָה דוּדִי לְקִרְאָת כְּלָה, פְּנֵי שַׁבָּת נִקְבְּלָה.
"Observe" and "remember" in a single word, We were made to hear by the unifying God, God is one and God's Name is one, In fame and splendour and song.	① שָׁמֹר וְזָכוֹר בְּדַבּוֹר אֶחָד, הַשְּׁמִיעֵנוּ אֵל הַמִּיחָד, יְהוָה אֶחָד וְשֵׁמוֹ אֶחָד, לְשֵׁם וּלְתַפְאֳרָת וּלְתִהְיֶינָהּ.
Towards Shabbat let's go, let's travel, For she is the wellspring of blessing, From the start, from long ago she was chosen, Last made, but first planned.	② לְקִרְאָת שַׁבָּת לָכוּ וּנְלָכֵה, כִּי הִיא מְקוֹר הַבְּרָכָה, מֵרֵאשׁ מִקְדָּם נִסּוּבָה, סוּף מַעֲשֵׂה בְּמַחְשְׁבָהּ תַּחֲלָה.
Sanctuary of the king, royal city, Arise! Leave from the midst of the turmoil; Long enough have you sat in the valley of tears He will be greatly compassionate upon you.	③ מִקְדָּשׁ מֶלֶךְ עִיר מְלֻבָּה, קוּמִי צְאִי מִתּוֹךְ הַהִפְכָּה, רַב לָךְ שַׁבָּת בְּעֵמֶק הַבְּכָא, וְהוּא יִחְמָדֶךָ עַלֶיךָ חֶמְלָה.
Shake yourself free, rise from the dust, Dress in your garments of splendour, my people, By the hand of Jesse's son, of Bethlehem, Redemption draws near to my soul.	④ הִתְנַעְרִי מֵעַפָּר קוּמִי, לְבַשִׁי בְּגָדֵי תַפְאֳרֶתךָ עִמִּי, עַל יַד בֶּן יִשִׁי בֵּית הַלְחָמִי, קִרְבָּה אֶל נַפְשִׁי גְאֻלָּה.
Rouse yourselves! Rouse yourselves! Your light is coming, rise up and shine. Awaken! Awaken! utter a song, The glory of God is revealed upon you.	⑤ הִתְעוֹרְרִי הִתְעוֹרְרִי, כִּי בָא אוֹרְךָ קוּמִי אוֹרִי, עוֹרִי עוֹרִי שִׁיר דְּבָרִי, כְּבוֹד יְהוָה עַלְיֶיךָ נִגְלָה.
Do not be embarrassed! Do not be ashamed! Why be downcast? Why moan? All my afflicted people will find shelter within you And the city shall be rebuilt on her hill.	⑥ לֹא תִבוֹשִׁי וְלֹא תִכְלָמִי, מָה תִשְׁתַּחֲוִי וּמָה תִהָמִי, בְּךָ יִחְסוּ עַגְנֵי עַמִּי, וְנִבְנְתָה עִיר עַל תְּלָהּ.
Your despoilers will become spoil, Far away shall be any who would devour you, Your God will rejoice in you, As a groom rejoices in a bride.	⑦ וְהָיוּ לְמַשְׁסָה שְׂאֵסוּיךָ, וְרָחֲקוּ כָל מִבְלַעְיֶיךָ, יִשֵּׁשׁ עַלְיֶיךָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ, כַּמְשׁוֹשׁ חַתָּן עַל כְּלָהּ.
To your left and your right you will burst forth, And God will you revere By the hand of a child of Perez, We will rejoice and sing happily.	⑧ יָמִין וּשְׂמָאל תִּפְרוּצִי, וְאֵת יְהוָה תִּעְרִיצִי, עַל יַד אִישׁ בֶּן פְּרָצִי, וְנִשְׁמַחָה וְנִגְיָלָהּ.
Come in peace, crown of her husband, Both in happiness and in jubilation Amidst the faithful of the treasured nation Come O Bride! Come O Bride!.	⑨ בּוֹאִי בְּשָׁלוֹם עֹטְרַת בַּעֲלָהּ, גַּם בְּשִׂמְחָה וּבִצְהֻלָּהּ, תּוֹךְ אֲמוּנֵי עַם סִגְלָהּ, בּוֹאִי כְלָה, בּוֹאִי כְלָה.

HOW DO DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES SING LECHA DODI

Having been introduced to *Lecha Dodi*, the player now has the opportunity to hear *Lecha Dodi* from ten different people at the *Kotel*, each of whom originates from a different country. By clicking each person, the player learns about their country of origin (which is identified using *Google Maps*), the Jewish community from that country, a famous synagogue in that country, and the different way in which *Lecha Dodi* is sung there.



Additionally, each time the player learns about a different person, they collect a postcard from their country of origin and a flag for their country then appears in front of each person. Below are the details provided by each person, listed alphabetically:

<u>Country</u>	<u>The Jewish community</u>	<u>The Synagogue</u>	<u>Lecha Dodi</u>
Australia	The first Jews arrived in Australia in 1788 when at least 8 Jewish convicts were taken from the prisons of London! In 1828 free English Jewish settlers arrived and were followed by waves of Jewish immigrants from Russia and Poland. Many Jewish refugees from Nazi Europe also came to Australia. Today there are about 120,000 Jews in Australia.	The Great Shul in Sydney, Australia, serves more than 850 families. Some families can trace their ancestry back to the founders of The Great Shul in the 1850's, while other families have just arrived in Australia from South Africa, Israel or elsewhere.	<i>Lecha Dodi</i> courtesy of Chazzan David Hilton of The Great Shul, Sydney, Australia
Brazil	When the Inquisition in Portugal took hold in 1497, the Jews fled to places throughout the world, including Brazil. The first Jew landed in Brazil in 1500, at the time of the voyages of Christopher Columbus. The Jewish population today in Brazil is about 150,000.	In 1636, Jews built the Kahal Zur Shul in the city of Recife. It had a cantor and a rabbi, who were sent to Recife in 1642, and served a community of about 1 450 Jews. In 1655, the Portuguese closed this Shul. The Shul was restored and reopened in 2002. It now stands as the oldest existing shul in the Americas.	<i>Lecha Dodi</i> from the CD "Shira Jadasha", courtesy of Ari Litvak (www.artilitvak.com)
France	Jews first came to France over 2000 years ago. Today there are around 600,000 Jews living in France, which is the biggest population of Jews in Europe. The most famous Jewish neighbourhood in Paris is known as the Pletzl, which is Yiddish for little place.	Agudath Ha Kehilot, the largest Pletzl, was opened in 1914. On Yom Kippur 1940 the Germans dynamited the Shul. It has since been restored and is a national monument.	<i>Lecha Dodi</i> from the CD "Lo Tedaa Milhama" by Itshak Jacques Bensoussan
India	Each Jewish community in India has different origins - some arrived during the time of the Kingdom of Judah, others may be descendants of Israel's Ten Lost Tribes. It is not clear when the Cochin Jews arrived. In the 1940s they numbered 3,000 people! Today there are about 50 practicing Cochin	There are 33 shuls in India, although many are no longer used. You are looking at the Paradesi Shul in Cochin, or Kochi. Cochin shuls are unique in that they have two bimahs. The main bimah is on the main level where the men sit. The second, used during holidays and	<i>Lecha Dodi</i> courtest of "Tzililei Raj"

	Jews left in India and about 8,000 in Israel.	special events, is next to where the women sit.	
Iraq	Iraq was once called Babylon. After the Second Temple was destroyed in 70 CE, Babylon became the spiritual centre of the Jewish world. About 900 years ago, explorer Benjamin of Tudela told of 40,000 Jews in Baghdad, with 28 shuls and 10 Torah academies. By 1948, there were 60 shuls in Baghdad! Between 1950 and 1952, over 120,000 Iraqi Jews moved to Israel.	The Great Shul of Baghdad stands on the site of a shul built by a king who was exiled from Israel to Babylon two and a half thousand years ago. Legend has it that material gathered from the ruins of the Temple in Jerusalem was used to build it! The building is now a museum. In 1900, The Great Shul housed over 70 gold and silver-encased Torah scrolls.	<i>Lecha Dodi</i> courtesy of David D'Or (www.daviddor.com)
Israel	Jews have lived in Israel since Joshua led the people across the Jordan river following the death of Moses. Since then, with the exception of a 52 year period during the time of the Babylonian exile, there has been a Jewish presence in Israel ever since. In 1948, the State of Israel was established and since then, Jews from every part of the world have moved to Israel and made it their home. With 6.1 million Jewish citizens, Israel is now the largest Jewish population in the world.	There are many shuls in Safed, each with its own legends. Here you see the Abuhav Shul, named after Rabbi Abuhav, a famous Spanish rabbi. Some people believe that the Shul was built in Spain, but after the Jews were expelled from there, it miraculously moved to Safed overnight!	<i>Lecha Dodi</i> sung by Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach
Morocco	Jews have lived in Morocco since the year 70, when the Romans destroyed the Second Temple in Jerusalem. Several thousand Jews still live in Morocco, but in Israel today, there are nearly a million Jews who came from Morocco!	The Sa'adan Shul is in Fes, Morocco. Moroccans pray according to the Sephardic tradition. Men and women are in separate areas, and the entire service is in Hebrew.	<i>Shabbat Medley</i> from the CD "Zohar", courtesy of Uri Caine and Aaron Bensousan (www.uricaine.com)
Russia	Jews first came to Russia when the First Temple was destroyed 2500 years ago. Between 1880 and 1920 about two million Jews left Russia, mainly for America. Today, the largest number of Russian Jews now live in Israel, not in Russia.	The Grand Choral Shul of Saint Petersburg is the second largest shul in Europe. It was built between 1880 and 1888. Between 2000 and 2005 the Shul was reconstructed and was renamed The Edmond J Safra Grand Choral Shul.	<i>Lecha Dodi</i> sung by the Marina Roscha Synagogue choir
South Africa	The first Jews arrived in South Africa with the Portuguese explorers as early as 1488! However, most South African Jews have roots in Lithuania. Today, there are about 70,000 Jews in South Africa.	Gardens Shul, in Cape Town, was the first congregation in South Africa. It was built in 1841. It is called the Gardens Shul because it is in the grounds of the Cape Town Botanical Gardens.	<i>Lecha Dodi</i> , courtesy of Oshy Tugendhaft and The Sudenham Choir from the CD "Celebration! Triumph of a nation"
USA	Jews first arrived in the United States in the 17th century, mainly from Spain and Portugal. Many Jews arrived in the early 1880s, because they were persecuted in parts of Eastern Europe. Today, the United States is home to over 5 million Jews, the second largest Jewish community in the world, after Israel.	The Breed St. Shul in Southern California was, from 1915 to 1951, the largest Jewish Orthodox shul in the western United States, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.	<i>Lecha Dodi</i> courtesy of Craig Taubman, from the CD "Friday Night Live"

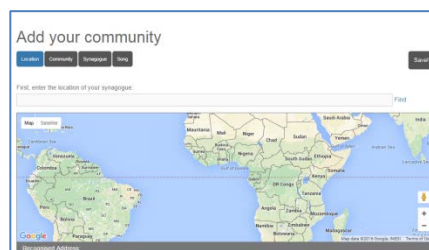
COLLECT ALL THE POSTCARDS

Having been introduced to the different people at the *Kotel*, the player is encouraged to collect and review the postcards from each of the cities that they have visited.



ADD YOUR COMMUNITY

Players are also encouraged to contribute their own family and community history, synagogue and their own version of *Lecha Dodi* to an active database, which can then be visited by users all over the world.



Ji Connect IN THE CLASSROOM

This interactive tool is a wonderful way to explore the history and cultures of different Jewish communities, and it inspires players to find out about where their families are from, how they arrived in the place where they are now living and investigate the history of their own community and synagogue.

Ji Connect DICTIONARY

English Transliteration (Sephardi)	English Transliteration (Ashkenazi)	Literal Translation	Meaning
<i>Kotel</i>	<i>Kosel</i>	Wall	This is the shortened version of the Hebrew term 'HaKotel HaMa'aravi' which means 'the Western Wall'. This refers to the Western Wall of the Temple Mount which was built by King Herod just over 2,000 years ago to surround and glorify the Second Temple in Jerusalem.
<i>Lecha Dodi</i>		Let's go, my friend	<i>Lecha Dodi</i> is a beautiful song written by Rabbi Shlomo Halevi Alkabetz (1500-1580) and sung on a Friday night in synagogues throughout the world.
<i>Shabbat</i>	Shabbos	Sabbath	The Sabbath day which, according to tradition, begins at sunset on Friday night, and ends when three stars can be seen on Saturday night.
<i>Shamor</i>		Guard	This word appears in the formulation of the 4th commandment in Deuteronomy 5:12, and tradition teaches that this refers to the specific actions that Jews should not do on Shabbat (e.g. kindling a flame).
<i>Torah</i>		Literally 'teaching'	This term is generally used to refer to the five books of Moses, although it is sometimes used with reference to other Jewish sources such as the Talmud, which inform Jewish law.
<i>Zachor</i>		Remember	This word appears in the formulation of the 4th commandment in Exodus 20:8, and tradition teaches that this refers to the positive acts that should be performed in order to sanctify Shabbat.