



EDUCATOR GUIDE

Sukkah Challenge



'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>

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SUKKAH CHALLENGE EDUCATOR GUIDE

OVERVIEW

This fun and easy-to-use app invites children to virtually experience the Jewish festival of *Sukkot* (Tabernacles). Players earn shekels by learning the *Torah* (Bible) texts that discuss the *Arba Minim* (the Four Species), as well as *Sukkot* (Tabernacles). Players then use the information they glean from these texts - as well as the money they have earned - to buy *Arba Minim* and *Sukkah* materials from the market. Once purchased, players learn how to hold and shake the *Arba Minim* and they are taught how to recite the blessing when shaking the *Arba Minim*. They are also taught about the necessary dimensions of the *Sukkah* and how to recite the blessing when sitting in a *Sukkah*. In addition to this, *Sukkah Challenge* contains a great word-bank, and a fun interactive quiz!



ABOUT SUKKOT

Sukkot is a festival described in Leviticus 23:33-43 on which Jews dwell in *Sukkot* (Tabernacles) for seven days in order to remember the way they lived when they left Egypt. Additionally, *Sukkot* is a harvest festival which is why Jews are commanded to take *Arba Minim* (the Four Species specified in Leviticus 23:40). *Sukkot* begins on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, which is the Hebrew month of *Tishrei*, and it lasts 7 days. However, there are slight differences in the way that *Sukkot* is celebrated between Jews living in Israel and those living in the diaspora (ie. outside of Israel). For further information about the dates and customs of *Sukkot*, see APPENDIX I.

LANGUAGE SETTINGS

On the home screen of *Sukkah Challenge* are language settings, enabling player to be given instructions in either English or Hebrew. However, it should be noted that there are actually three settings for English: 'Sephardi (with Hashem)', 'Sephardi (with God)' or 'Ashkenazi'. The terms 'Sephardi' and 'Ashkenazi' refer to the accent in which the Hebrew words are pronounced, so by selecting 'English Sephardi' it means that the instructions in *Sukkah Challenge* will be given in English while the Hebrew words used in the game will be pronounced with a modern Israeli accent (for example, the name for the special fruit which is one of the Four Species will be pronounced as 'Etrog'), whereas if you selected 'English Ashkenazi', it means that those same Hebrew words will be pronounced with a north European accent (for example, the name for the special fruit which is one of the Four Species will be pronounced as 'Esrog').



The reasons why Jews pronounce the same words differently are exactly the same as why people in the same country pronounce words differently. In all countries and amongst all people who speak the same language there are regional and geographical differences. It should also be noted that in Hebrew there are different names or words for God. One of those is the sacred four-letter name (YHVH) revealed to Moses at the Burning Bush. When seeing

this name in the Torah the reader will usually pronounce the word as Adonai (LORD) but many Jews prefer the word HaShem (literally The Name) when talking about God. It also helps some Jews to distinguish the Jewish concept of God from the same concept in other religious traditions.

Note that these settings can be changed at any stage in the game from the homepage.

LEVEL 1 & LEVEL 2

In addition to being able to select different languages, Sukkah Challenge contains two levels (Level 1 & Level 2), which reflect the presumed subject knowledge of the player, as well as the sophistication of some of the texts that they are introduced to.

- In **Level 1**, players are only introduced to Biblical texts, and when choosing the Four Species at the market, they can only choose from items that are 'kosher' (acceptable/valid).
- In **Level 2**, players are introduced to Talmudic sources, and when choosing the Four Species at the market, they must select between 'kosher' (acceptable/valid) and 'pasul' (unacceptable/invalid) items.

However, aside from these differences, the gameplay is the same. To view the worksheets produced for Level 1 students, see APPENDIX 2.

HOME SCREEN

Having chosen the language settings as well as the level, the player is taken to a home screen where they can select one of 5 options:



1. *Arba Minim* (Laws relating to the Four Species)

In this section, the player:

- Identifies each of the four species from Leviticus 23:40, and by doing so, earns sufficient money to purchase each of these items.*
- Goes to the market to buy each of the four species in their correct quantities.*
- Puts all the four species together.*
- Learns how to recite the bracha prior to shaking the Four Species.*
- Learns the way in which the Four Species are shaken.*

2. Build a Sukkah

In this section, the player:

- Identifies the fact that the Jewish people lived in Sukkot (Tabernacles) from Leviticus 23:42, and by doing so, earns sufficient money to purchase each of these items.*
- Goes to the market to buy the necessary supplies to build a Sukkah.*
- Builds a sukkah, while making sure that its dimensions are in accordance with Jewish law. Players must build the frame, then the walls, and then place the Schach (roof covering) on top.*
- Bring furniture from the home into the Sukkah to make it comfortable.*
- Learns how to recite the bracha prior to sitting in the Sukkah.*

3. Brachot (Blessings)

In this section, the player learns the brachot for:

- a) Sitting in a Sukkah.
- b) Eating in a Sukkah and shaking the lulav for the first time.
- c) Shaking the Arba Minim (The Four Species)
- d) Inviting the Ushpizin

4. Quiz about Sukkot

In this section, the player is asked six questions about the laws and customs of Sukkot.

5. Words/Glossary

In this section, the player is provided with an interactive Hebrew-English dictionary.

In the following pages, we will review the contents from each of these sections.

1a. THE FOUR SPECIES

The Torah (Leviticus 23:40) lists *Arba Minim* (Four Species) that should be taken during *Sukkot*:

And you shall take for yourselves on the first day (i) the fruit of the hadar tree, (ii) date palm frond, (iii) branches of a braided tree, and (iv) willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for a seven day period.

To understand the specific requirements of each of these *Arba Minim*, we have summarised their laws here:

(i) The fruit of the hadar tree

The Rabbis explain that the fruit of the *hadar* tree is identified as the Etrog. This fruit typically has a *pitom* (stamen) on the side opposite to its stem, and if the *pitom* breaks off, it may render the etrog unfit for use. It is for this reason that some people prefer using an Etrog that grows without a *pitom*.



(ii) Date palm frond

This is known in Hebrew as the *Lulav*, which is the long thin branch of a palm tree with a green “spine” running through the centre.

(iii) Branches of a braided tree

This item, known in English as myrtle branches and in Hebrew as *Hadassim*, have small leaves which cover each other and give it the appearance of looking “braided”. The Rabbis learn from the syntax of the verse that three myrtle branches are required.

(iv) Willows of the brook

This is known in Hebrew as *Aravot*, and it refers to willow branches that have long leaves. The Rabbis learn from the syntax of the verse that two willow branches are required.

1b. BINDING THE FOUR SPECIES TOGETHER

Based on the language used in Leviticus 23:40, the Rabbis explain that the *Arba Minim* should be taken together. The way this is achieved is through binding the branches together, while also holding the Etrog. The *Aravot* are bound on the left side of the lulav, when facing the spine; the *Hadasim* are bound on the right side of the lulav, when facing the spine; the *Lulav* is held with its green “spine” facing outwards (away from the person). In colloquial terms, this bundle is collectively referred to as the “Lulav.”



1c. WAVING THE FOUR SPECIES

- The *Arba Minim* are taken every day of *Sukkot* (except Shabbat) and waved in the 6 primary directions.
- Today, it is a Torah commandment to take the 4 species on the first day of *Sukkot*. Taking the species on the remaining days is a Rabbinic commandment.

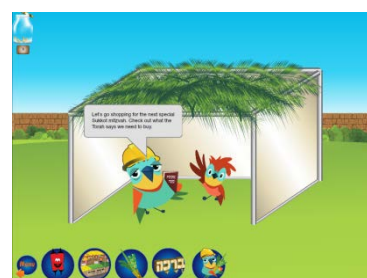
How do we wave the four species?

- The *Lulav* is held in the right hand and the Etrog in the left.
- The Talmud teaches that the species must be taken in the formation in which they grow. The branches all facing upwards, and the *pitom* side of the *etrog* also facing upwards.
- When we make a blessing on a *mitzvah* (commandment), we usually do so *before* the *mitzvah* is performed. Because of this, we take the *etrog* upside down, (*pitom* side facing the ground), then make the blessing, and only afterwards turn it around to face the proper way and fulfil the *mitzvah* of taking the 4 species.
- The 4 species are then waved, forward, right, backwards, left, up and down. (Although some communities vary the order).
- The Talmud teaches us that this is not strictly part of the *mitzvah*, but is an additional aspect of the *mitzvah* and is done to demonstrate that all the directions on Heaven and Earth are God's.
- In addition the Talmud states that we hope that God will keep away harmful winds from the four directions and harmful rains and dew from above and below.

2. BUILD A SUKKAH

The Torah (Leviticus 23:42-43) states:

You shall live in Sukkot seven days. Every resident among Bnei Yisrael (the people of Israel) shall live in sukkot. In order that your generations may know that I settled Bnei Yisrael in sukkot when I took them out of the land of Egypt. I am Hashem your God.



Based on these verses, the Rabbis identified a number of laws relating to how to build a Sukkah and what constitutes ‘living’ in a Sukkah. These are things that are required/desired

to make a sukkah: (i) Walls; (ii) The covering, or *schach*; (iii) Something to secure the *schach* to the walls; (iv) Decorations & (v) Things to make the sukkah comfortable.

(i) Walls

- The walls are built first and can be made of any material.
- The Walls must be higher than 10 *tefachim* (handbreadths).
- There must be 3 or more walls, and each of them must be at least 7 *tefachim* long.
- The walls should touch in the corner.
- The walls need to be sufficiently secure that they don't blow in the wind.
- There must be less than 3 *tefachim* space between the wall and the ground so no small animal can climb in!!

(ii) Schach

- *Schach* is the covering over the sukkah
- *Schach* must grow from the ground and be detached from the ground
- There should be enough *schach* on top of the sukkah that there will be more shade than sunlight on the sukkah floor.

(iii) Securing the schach to the sukkah

- If you use a material to secure the *schach* on the Sukkah, it is important that it not be secured too tight that the *schach* is unable to move a little.
- Any material used to secure the *schach* should be made from natural material.

(iv) Decorations

One should endeavour to ensure that mitzvot are performed as beautifully as possible. Consequently, it is encouraged to decorate the *Sukkah*.

(v) Making the sukkah comfortable

Given the instruction to 'live' in *Sukkot*, it is important that the *Sukkah* is as comfortable as possible and that whatever we usually do in our house is done in the *sukkah*. The more comfortable the *sukkah* is, the more time a person will want to spend there. Many people try to make sure that their *Sukkah* has good lighting, comfortable chairs, is not too hot and not too cold and that there are no flies around so their family will want to spend time there!

3. BRACHOT (Blessings)

Below are the English translations of the different blessings recited during *Sukkot*:

a. To sit in a Sukkah:

Say this bracha (blessing) when sitting in the sukkah.

Blessed are You, Hashem our God, King of the universe, who has made us holy through his commandments and commanded us to live in the sukkah.



b. Shehechyanu:

Say this bracha the first time you shake the lulav each year and the first time you sit in the sukkah each year.

Blessed are You, Hashem our God, King of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this time.

c. To shake Arba Minim:

Say this bracha(blessing) before you shake the lulav.

Blessed are You, Hashem our God, King of the universe, who has made us holy through his commandments and commanded us to take up the lulav.

d. To invite Ushpizin

Each night in the sukkah, different Ushpizin (guests) are invited. On the first night we invite Avraham, on the second night Yitzchak, and so on. Say this prayer before inviting each of the Ushpizin:

I invite to my meal the exalted guests, Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov, Moshe, Aharon, Yosef and David.



4. QUIZ ABOUT SUKKOT

Below are the quiz questions *Sukkot*, along with their answers:

a. What is Sukkot?

One of the *Shalosh Regalim*.

b. When is Sukkot?

From the 15 of Tishrei for 7 days.

c. What is another name for Sukkot?

Zman Simchateinu – The time of joy.

d. How do we celebrate Sukkot?

By eating, drinking & sometimes sleeping in the Sukkah. Also by shaking the Arba Minim (The four species).

e. Who do we invite to our Sukkah?

The important guests Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov, Moshe, Aharon, Yosef & David.

f. Where do thousands of Kohanim get together to bless the Jewish nation on Sukkot?

At the *Kotel*.

5. SUKKAH CHALLENGE DICTIONARY

English Transliteration (Sephardi)	English Transliteration (Ashkenazi)	Literal translation	Meaning
<i>Agalah</i>		Wagon/Trolley	This is used in Sukkah Challenge to bring the materials from the market in order to build the <i>Sukkah</i> .
<i>amah</i>		Cubit	This is a Talmudic unit of length equal to six <i>tefachim</i> (handbreadths). An <i>amah</i> is approximately 48cm.
<i>Amot</i>	<i>Amos</i>	Cubits	This is the plural version of the word <i>amah</i> .
<i>Ananei Hakavod</i>		Clouds of Glory	According to tradition, when the Jewish people journeyed through the wilderness, they were protected by special <i>clouds of glory</i> and according to one opinion, the Sukkot festival serves as a reminder of how God protected the Jewish people with these special clouds.
<i>Aravah</i>		Willow branch	This is one of the <i>Arba Minim</i> specified in Leviticus 23:40.
<i>Aravot</i>	<i>Aravos</i>	Willow branches	This is the plural version of the word <i>Aravah</i> .
<i>Arba Minim</i>		The Four Species	These are the four species listed in Leviticus 23:40.
<i>Bad</i>		Material	This is the Hebrew term for fabric, which is the material that many choose to use for the walls of their <i>Sukkah</i> .
<i>Bracha</i>		Blessing	There are a number of special blessings recited in Sukkot.
<i>Brachot</i>		Blessings	This is the plural version of the word <i>Bracha</i> .
<i>Chol Hamoed</i>		Intermediary days	These are the middle days of <i>Sukkot</i> when almost all creative actions can be performed. In Israel, there are 5 days of <i>Chol Hamoed</i> , while in the diaspora, there are 4.
<i>Etrog</i>	<i>Esrog</i>		This is one of the <i>Arba Minim</i> specified in Leviticus 23:40.
<i>Etz</i>		Tree/wood	Wood is generally used for building the <i>Sukkah</i> .
<i>Geshem</i>		Rain	Jews begin to pray for rain on <i>Shmini Atzeret</i> .

<i>Hadas</i>		Myrtle	This is one of the <i>Arba Minim</i> specified in Leviticus 23:40.
<i>Hadasim</i>		Myrtles	This is the plural version of the word <i>Hadas</i> .
<i>Hashem</i>		Literally, 'The Name'	This term is used by many Jews when talking about God.
<i>Hoshanah Rabbah</i>		Literally, 'The Great Supplication'	This is the name for the sixth day of Sukkot (which is the final day of <i>Chol Hamoed</i> Sukkot), and it is considered by many to be the final day of the divine "judgment" in which the fate of the new year is determined.
<i>Kerashim</i>		Wooden boards	Many people use wooden boards for the walls of their <i>Sukkah</i> .
<i>Kishutim</i>		Decorations	Many different types of decorations are used to beautiful the <i>Sukkah</i> .
<i>Kochavim</i>		Stars	The <i>Schach</i> should allow for the possibility of seeing the stars in the sky.
<i>Kohen</i>		Priest	A <i>Kohen</i> is someone who is a direct descendant of Aaron, the older brother of Moses, who was the first High Priest of the Jewish people.
<i>Kohanim</i>		Priests	This is the plural version of the word <i>Kohen</i> .
<i>Kosher</i>		Acceptable/valid	This term is used when confirming that an item or behaviour is acceptable or valid according to Jewish law.
<i>Kotel</i>	<i>Kosel</i>	Literally, '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>Lashevet</i>	<i>Lasheves</i>	To sit	Jews are commanded to sit in the <i>Sukkah</i> .
<i>Livnot</i>	<i>Livnos</i>	To build	In order to be able to live in a <i>Sukkah</i> , Jews need to build a <i>Sukkah</i> .
<i>Lulav</i>		Date palm frond	This is one of the <i>Arba Minim</i> specified in Leviticus 23:40.
<i>Masechet Sukkah</i>	<i>Maseches Sukkah</i>	Tractate Sukkah	This is the name of the Talmudic tractate that discusses the laws of Sukkot.
<i>Melacha</i>		Creative act	<i>Melacha</i> is forbidden on Shabbat and Yom Tov.

<i>Mitzvah</i>		Commandment	According to tradition, the Torah contains 613 commandments.
<i>Pasul</i>		Unacceptable/ Invalid	This term is used when confirming that an item or behaviour is unacceptable or invalid according to Jewish law.
<i>Pitom</i>	<i>Pisom</i>	Stamen	This is the small protrusion on an Etrog which is left over from the Etrog blossom.
<i>Ruach</i>		wind	According to Jewish law, a <i>Sukkah</i> must be able to withstand usual amounts of wind.
<i>Schach</i>		covering	These are the branches or bamboo mats placed on the roof of the <i>Sukkah</i> .
<i>Shalosh Regalim</i>		Literally, 'The tree feet' but practically, the Three Pilgrim Festivals	This is the term used for the three Pilgrim Festivals (Pesach, Shavuot & Sukkot) when Jews would participate in the national sacrificial offerings at the Temple in Jerusalem.
<i>Shehechyanu</i>		Literally 'who has kept us alive'	This is a blessing recited when performing a <i>mitzvah</i> for the first time each year, or when celebrating festivals or the purchase of new items.
<i>Shekel</i>			This is a measure of weight and is also the national currency of Israel.
<i>Shmini Atzeret</i>	<i>Shmini Atzeres</i>	Literally 'Eighth day of Assembly'	This is an independent festival that immediately follows <i>Sukkot</i> .
<i>Shuk</i>		market	In Sukkah Challenge, the <i>Shuk</i> is where you can buy the <i>Arba Minim</i> , as well as the necessary materials to build a <i>Sukkah</i> .
<i>Simchat Torah</i>	<i>Simchas Torah</i>	Literally, 'The joy of Torah'	This is the day each year when Jews celebrate the completion of the reading of the entire Torah. In Israel, this falls on <i>Shmini Atzeret</i> , and in the diaspora, on the second day of <i>Shmini Atzeret</i> .
<i>Sukkah</i>		Tabernacle	This is the name of the booths that Jews are instructed to live in for 7 days each year.
<i>Sukkot</i>	<i>Sukkos</i>	Tabernacles	This is the plural version of the word <i>Sukkah</i> , and it is also the name for the festival during which Jews live in a <i>Sukkah</i> .
<i>Tefach</i>		Handbreadth	This is the Talmudic unit for a handbreadth. A <i>tefach</i> is approximately 8cm.

<i>Tefachim</i>		Handbreadths	This is the plural version of the word <i>Tefach</i> .
<i>Tishrei</i>			This is the Hebrew name for the seventh month of the Jewish year.
<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>Ushpizin</i>		Guests	According to tradition, a different representative of Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov, Moshe, Aharon, Yosef and David visit the <i>Sukkot</i> of all Jews on each night of <i>Sukkot</i> .
<i>Yom Tov</i>		Literally 'Good Day'	These are the days in a festival when <i>melacha</i> (forbidden creative actions) may not be performed.
<i>Yom Tov Sheini shel Galuyot</i>	<i>Yom Tov Sheini shel Galuyos</i>	Literally, 'the second day of <i>Yom Tov</i> in the lands outside of Israel'	This is the name of the extra day of <i>Yom Tov</i> that is observed by communities in the diaspora.
<i>Zman Simchateinu</i>	<i>Zman Simchaseinu</i>	The time of our joy	This is one of the names that the Rabbis gave to <i>Sukkot</i> .

6a. SUKKAH CHALLENGE IN THE CLASSROOM

Lesson plans

Below are some lesson plans and worksheets that you may find useful:

- Sukkot Quiz 1: Sukkot is one of the Shalosh Regalim
- Lesson plan: [Sukkot Quiz 1 - Shalosh Regalim](#)
- Worksheet sources: [Worksheet sources for Quiz 1](#)
- Sukkot Quiz 5: Ushpizin
- Lesson plan: [Sukkot Quiz 5 - Ushpizin](#)
- [Sukkot Quiz Question 5 Game part 1](#)
- [Sukkot Quiz Question 5 Game part 2](#)
- Sukkot Quiz 6: Birkat Hakohanim
- Lesson plan: [Sukkot Quiz 6 - Birkat Kohanim](#)
- Worksheet sources: [Worksheet sources for Quiz 6](#)

Activities:

(i) Let's get creative

- Make a decoration for your sukkah. Here is a wiki for making chain decorations and other fun activities for Sukkot.
- How to make a [paper chain](#) for your sukkah
- Sukkot [activities](#) from Chabad

(ii) Schach Nature walk

Go on a nature walk with your iPads/camera and photograph any plants you see that could be used as *schach*.

(iii) Let's recycle

- Recycle Sukkah Style... Use items from recycling to make your own Green Sukkah - this sukkah should be a mini version of a kosher sukkah - use Sukkah Challenge to remember how.

(iv) Let's talk

The sukkah represents God's protection. When sitting in a sukkah and looking up at the stars, it serves as a reminder of faith in God.

Probing questions:

- What does faith mean to you?
- Can you think of a time when you really have felt faith?
- Imagine living in a sukkah all the time - what would you feel?

(v) Social Awareness

The sukkah is a temporary dwelling and we only spend 7 days inside. There are many people all over the world who live in temporary houses permanently.

Probing questions:

- Can you find out about communities living like this?
- Are there people in your city who are homeless?
- How can we help them?

6b. ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

LEVEL 1
Learn how to make a paper chain for your sukkah: Click here
For a wonderful collection of activities for Sukkot, click here .
Noam's Etrog Farm: Watch a short documentary about a boy in Israel who visits an etrog farm and helps his family build their sukkah to prepare for the holiday.
Take a look at our '4 Kidz by Kidz' items on Sukkot. Click here...
LEVEL 2
Watch this short cartoon to stimulate discussion on Sukkot and where we can build a sukkah
Download activities based on cartoon to use as discussion points.
Watch people shake their lulav

c. SUKKAH CHALLENGE RUBRIC

Quiz			
Key questions	Knowledge	Skills	Understanding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What is Sukkot? •When is Sukkot? •What is another name for Sukkot? •How do we celebrate Sukkot? •Who do we invite to our Sukkah? •Where/When do we do <i>Birkat HaKohanim</i>? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •I know the Hebrew date of Sukkot and when it falls this year. •I know another name for Sukkot. •I know what customs are connected with Sukkot and why. •I know that Sukkot is part of the <i>Shalosh Regalim</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •I am able to work out the Hebrew and English date of Sukkot. •I can order the names of the <i>Ushpizin</i> and find information about them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •I understand that Sukkot is a festival. •I understand that Sukkot has more than one name. •I understand that Sukkot is also called <i>Zman Simchateinu</i> and why. •I understand the concept of the <i>Ushpizin</i> on Sukkot. •I understand that we do <i>Birkat HaKohanim</i> on Sukkot
Building a Sukkah			
Key questions	Knowledge	Skills	Understanding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What do we do on Sukkot? •How do we build a Sukkah? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •I know why we celebrate the festival of Sukkot. •I know historical events connected to Sukkot. •I know when these events took place in Jewish history. •I know how to build a sukkah. •I know key words from the Torah that relate to Sukkot. •I recognise key phrases and pesukim from Torah texts referring to Sukkot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •I can locate key words in a text. •I can link key phrases and texts to specific customs/laws. •I can apply information from key texts to build a virtual kosher Sukkah. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •I understand why we sit in a sukkah •I understand what schach represents and why we have it •I understand why we build a sukkah in the way we do •(Higher Level Thinking)I understand how emunah (faith) links with Sukkot
Lulav and Etrog			
Key questions	Knowledge	Skills	Understanding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What are the Arba Minim? •Why do we use them on Sukkot? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •I know the Torah terminology for the Arba Minim. •I know what items make up the Arba Minim. •I know how to use the Arba Minim correctly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •I am able to identify key phrases and vocabulary within a pasuk. •I am able to link the Torah vocabulary with modern terminology. •I am able to identify all the items that make up the Arba Minim. •I can recite the blessing for shaking the Arba Minim. •I can shake the Arba Minim in the correct way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •I understand how customs for today are linked to Torah Texts •I understand how the Arba Minim are symbolic and why we use them on Sukkot

APPENDIX 1: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SUKKOT

The date of Sukkot

The Torah explains many of the laws of *Sukkot* (Tabernacles) in Leviticus 23:33-43, where it is taught that *Sukkot* begins on the fifteenth day of the seventh month (ibid. 23:39). Based on this description, Jewish tradition teaches that Sukkot begins on the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of *Tishrei* (which generally falls during Autumn, around the end of September), and that it lasts 7 days.

When does a day begin according to the Jewish tradition?

According to the Jewish tradition, the day begins at around sunset, and ends at nightfall just over 24 hours later. This means that *Sukkot* 'begins' at sunset, and 'ends' seven days later at nightfall.

How long does Sukkot last?

According to the Torah, the festival of *Sukkot* lasts 7 days (see Leviticus 40:39), and is immediately followed by an independent festival called *Shmini Atzeret*. Of these days, only the first day of *Sukkot* and *Shmini Atzeret* are 'Yom Tov' days, meaning days on which *melacha* (forbidden creative actions) may not be performed (e.g. writing, driving, using digital devices). The rest of the days are called '*Chol Hamoed*' (Intermediary days) when almost all creative actions can be performed.

Why does Sukkot last longer for Jewish communities outside of Israel?

For reasons relating to the way in which Jews used to establish the Hebrew calendar (which was based on when a new moon was seen in Jerusalem), and publicise when a new Jewish month began to communities outside of Israel (known as diaspora communities), doubt arose in diaspora communities regarding when a Jewish month began. This led to the custom in diaspora communities of adding an extra day of *Yom Tov* to each of the festivals to be sure. This extra day became known as '*Yom Tov Sheini shel Galuyot*' – the second day of *Yom Tov* in the lands outside of Israel. Consequently, Jewish communities outside of Israel celebrate two days of *Yom Tov* at the beginning of *Sukkot* instead of one, and they celebrate two days of *Shmini Atzeret* instead of one. This means that diaspora communities have one less day of *Chol Hamoed*, and that their festival ends a day later than those living in Israel.

What is Simchat Torah?

Every week in synagogues throughout the world, a portion of the Torah is read, and each year Jews celebrate reading the entire Torah, and this day is called *Simchat Torah* (literally, 'the joy of Torah'). In Israel, *Simchat Torah* is celebrated on *Shmini Atzeret*, while in the diaspora – which observes two days of *Shmini Atzeret* – *Simchat Torah* is celebrated on the second day.

Why is Sukkot celebrated in the Autumn?

The Jewish tradition also teaches that the Israelites left Egypt in the spring time (see Deuteronomy 16:1), and that the Israelites lived in Sukkot when they left Egypt (see Leviticus 40:43). This suggests that Sukkot is 'misplaced' and should really be celebrated in springtime!

In response to this question, the Rabbis explain that the reason why God insisted that Sukkot be celebrated in the Autumn is to ensure that people celebrate this festival in response to

God's command, rather than in response to the warm weather which would be best enjoyed by sitting in a shaded Sukkah.

APPENDIX 2: SUKKAH CHALLENGE WORKSHEETS

Below are the Sukkah Challenge worksheets for Level 1 students. These can also be downloaded by following the hyperlink [here](#):



See how much we can learn about sukkot from these pesukim!

Vayikra 23

ויקרא כג

42. You shall live in sukkot seven days. Every resident among the Israelites shall live in sukkot:

מב. בַּסֻּכּוֹת תֵּשְׁבוּ שִׁבְעַת יָמִים כָּל הָאֹזְרָח בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל יֵשְׁבוּ בַּסֻּכּוֹת:

43. In order that your generations may know that I settled the children of Israel in sukkot when I took them out of the land of Egypt. I am Hashem, your God.

מג. לְמַעַן יֵדְעוּ דֹרֹתֵיכֶם כִּי בַּסֻּכּוֹת הוֹשַׁבְתִּי אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּהוֹצִיאִי אוֹתָם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם אֲנִי יְיָ ה' הָיָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:



1. What did the Israelites live in while in the desert? Circle the word in the *pasuk*.



2. Why do we celebrate *Sukkot*? Highlight the answer in the *pasuk*.



3. How big must a *sukkah* be? A *sukkah* must be big enough to _____ in.



Fill in the Hebrew words "to live in"

4. How many times is "*sukkot*" mentioned in the *pasuk*?



This number is a hint to suggest at least how many walls a *sukkah* must have.



Schach reminds us that God looks after us and protects us.

<p>Devarim 16</p> <p>13. You shall make yourself the Festival of Sukkot for seven days, when you gather in from your threshing floor and your winepress.</p>	<p>דברים טז</p> <p>יג. חג הסוכות תעשה לך שבועת קמים באספד מגרנד ומיקרד:</p>
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5. What do we put on top of the *sukkah*?

From the *pasuk* above it shows us what *schach* must be made of.
Highlight the answer.

6. What do you use for *schach*?

For our *schach*, we can use anything that once grew as a plant and is not attached to the ground any more.

Gathering from the threshing floor and winepress means leftovers from plants.



From this pasuk we learn to decorate our sukkah and make it beautiful.

Shmot 15

שמות טו

2 Hashem is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will beautify Him; my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

ב עֲזִי וְזִמְרַת יְהוָה, וַיְהִי-לִי לִישׁוּעָה; זֶה אֱלֹהֵי וְאֲנֹהוּ, אֱלֹהֵי אָבִי וְאֲרַמְמְנֶהוּ.



7. Which word in this *pasuk* suggests that we should make our *sukkah* beautiful? Circle the word.

8. Paste a picture of your *sukkah* with your decorations in the space below.

