



AMERICAN COMMUNITIES HELPING ISRAEL

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ACHI Jerusalem @ 40

Ideas for the Classroom and School-wide Projects

1. Ministry of Tourism has hired you to create a campaign – Visit Jerusalem Now.
 - a. Divide the class into groups and assign a leader for each of the groups – poster, radio commercial, TV commercial, e-bulletin – why visit Jerusalem?
 - b. Write a script for a play to be performed on Yom Yerushalayim – divide class into groups – script writer, scenery, costumes, music, dance, publicity. Video performance for circulation on Ministry of Tourism’s website.
2. Sites of Jerusalem - Virtual Tour – choose five major sites in J-m and do in depth study of the sites and be prepared to be a tour guide for another class
 - a. Kotel
 - b. Tunnels
 - c. Davidson Museum at Dung Gate
 - d. Model of Old City at Israel Museum
 - e. Turgeman Museum
 - f. Ammunition Hill
 - g. Begin Museum
 - h. Ein Yael
 - i. Biblical Zoo.
 - j. Yad Vashem
 - k. Har Herzl
 - l. Machne Yehuda
 - m. Meah Shearim
 - n. Ateret Cohanim
 - o. Knesset
 - p. Biblical Museum
 - q. Gates surrounding the Old City of Jerusalem
 - r. Burial places in J-m – Har Zaitm, Har Menuchot, Har Tamir, Har Herzl
 - s. Botanical Garden
 - t. Israel Museum

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- u. Supreme Court
 - v. Wall and Gates surrounding the Old City
 - w. Burma Road
3. Jerusalem in the Bible – find sources for the first time J-m is mentioned in the Bible. Find other words in the bible that refer to J-m. Biblical events that took place in J-m. Reenact stories that take place in Jerusalem by creating skits/plays.
 4. Jerusalem in Prayer – find tefillot that mention J-m. Study meaning of prayers and significance of J-m in prayer.
 5. Mizrach sign – create one for the class, for home and/or as a gift
 6. Jerusalem – a city once divided and now united – debate the current issue, create a poster promoting united J-m. .
 7. Jerusalem - still a topic of political discussions. Why? J-m in the news – find articles in newspapers or magazines that mention J-m and use as trigger for class discussions..
 8. Jerusalem – a holy city. Study of various faiths that turn to J-m – the epicenter of their religion.
 9. Jerusalem in Music – learn as many songs that make reference to J-m. Create a new song – Jerusalem @ 40. Design a Shiron Shel Yerushalyaim – J-m Songbook – include the known songs, new songs, create a song – create a CD to distribute/sell as a fundraiser (graduation project).
 10. Synagogues of Jerusalem – learn about the various synagogues and their many differences – design, seating, Torah, customs – Great Synagogue, Yeshurun, Italian Synagogue on Hillel Street, Sephardic Synagogue etc., Belz Chasidic Synagogue, Ger, etc.
 11. Create a Jerusalem @ 40 stamp.
 12. Meet People from Jerusalem – artists from J-m, Chayal from J-m, Oleh from J-m, Chef from J-m, entertainer from J-m, Rabbi from J-m etc - create questions for the interview or have people present their story.
 13. Create a Jerusalem Expo – invite vendors to sell only products made in Jerusalem - clothing, art work, jewelry, religious articles etc.- gift items for every occasion
 14. Create a timeline for Jerusalem – milestones in J-m’s history
 15. Map of J-m – learning about key communities of the city
 - a. Meah Shaearim
 - b. Yemin Moshe
 - c. Rechavia
 - d. Har Nof
 - e. Ramot
 - f. Geulah
 - g. Romema
 - h. Shaarei Chesed



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- i. Bayit V'Gan
 - j. Kiryat Moshe
 - k. Talpiyot
 - l. Givat Shaul
16. Map Study – roads to Jerusalem – popular days during the calendar year to visit the Kotel in J-m, Aliyah Laregel, Tefilat Musaf to remind us of our yearning to return to J-m and the rebuilding the Beit Hamikdash
 17. Transportation in J-m – railroad, bus for inter-city and intra-city, taxi, car, motorcycle, foot
 18. Population of Jerusalem – demographic study and understanding the growth of population in the capital city
 19. Education in Jerusalem – from the “metapelet”, to pre-school thru army thru university – options for the youth.
 20. Eating out in Jerusalem – choices of cuisine, fine dining, fast food, snacks, uniqueness of the food court in the Malcha Mall – observance of kashrut
 21. Shabbat in J-m – siren signaling the oncoming of Shabbat, (no bus transportation) davening at the Kotel, Friday night Shabbat meal (order in advance), Shabbat at the Great Synagogue with a chazzan and choir followed by a Shabbat lunch and a day of rest!
 22. Compare J-m as a capital of Israel to Washington DC, the capital of USA – government buildings, political leaders, political parties, etc.
 23. Kvitel Box – students learn to write a “kvitel” – a note of gratitude to G-d, an appeal to G-d, a special request etc. – a person going to Israel takes the filled box and stuffs the notes in the cracks of the Kotel, is photographed doing so and brings back the box for round two of the same.
 24. Fun in J-m – city of parks, “Mifletzet, Science Museum, Children’s Wing in the Israel Museum, Fun in the Mall, Simchat Torah in Liberty Bell Park, City of Rooftop Menorahs (all lit for Chanukah), concerts, theatre, movies, Fun foods – falafel, sufganiyot, pizza etc...
 25. Communities of J-m – Bucharim, Chasidim, Yeshivish, Russian, Yerushalmim, Sefardim, Ashkenazim, Conservative, Reform – and their unique customs, dress, foods, interior design of their synagogues
 26. Architecture and skyline of J-m – J-m stone, modern buildings vs. old and restored construction, “crane city” – new construction both commercial and residential, City of hotels and restaurants – hospitality city.
 27. Take Me to J-m – create game board and questions cards with factoids about J-m for players to advance on board
 - a. Capital of Israel – J-m
 - b. Largest city of Israel – J-m
 - c. When was Jerusalem reunited? – 1967



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- d. How old is Jerusalem?
 - e. Name the three religions in the old city of J-m – Judaism, Christianity and Muslim
 - f. Who is the mayor of J-m?
 - g. Name the most important government building in J-m? The Knesset
 - h. Name the holiest place in J-m for the Jewish people.
 - i. Name three museums in J-m.
 - j. Name a park in J-m.
 - k. Name a synagogue in J-m
 - l. Name a song with the word Jerusalem in it.
 - m. Name a prayer with the word J-m in it.
28. Create a Collage – illustrating the following – “Ten measures of beauty descended the world. Nine of them were taken by Jerusalem, and one by the rest of the world.” (Babylonian Talmud, Kiddushin 49 b)
 29. Create an Acrostic –for the Hebrew word Yerushalayim and for the English word Jerusalem
 30. You were hired to create a crossword puzzle for Yom Yerushalyim – all info is related to J-m
 31. Forty Minutes –Arbaim Dakot – Set a fixed time each week to talk Hebrew about J-m, sing Hebrew songs re J-m, Current Events related to J-m, map study, products of J-m
 32. Recreate the J-m Shuk – sell products: Judaica, food items, books, games, puzzles
 33. Streets of J-m – learn the key streets and understand the meaning of the names – Rechov King George, Rechov Yaffo, Achad h’am, Mendele, Chaf Tet November, Balfour etc.
 34. Sounds of J-m – Shofar – when it would be heard, honking, build a vocabulary./dictionary with key words and phrases – Shalom, Mah Shlomcha?, Ma Nishma?, B’seder, LeHitraot, Zeherut, Ya’ala, Adoni, G’veret., LaBriyut, Kadima, B’Vakasha, Toda, Odef, Ma Hasha’a, Yashar Yashar, Kama Ze Oleh?, Shabbat Shalom,. Shavua Tov, Chag Sameach, Boker Tov, Erev Tov, Nahag, Tov, Lo Tov, Henay, Mazal Tov, Zacheeta, etc.
 35. My Jerusalem – create and age appropriate book as a culminating project and include: biblical background, historical background, geographical information, religions, commerce (import and export), demographics, people of the city, sound and smells of the city, songs and dance, sports, sites, museums, parks, events etc.
 36. Model of the Beit Hamikdash – learn about the components, the size, the materials used, Aliya Laregel, and the role of a Cohen, Levi and Yisroel.
 37. Live form Jerusalem – become a newscaster and share current events from Jerusalem by perusing newspapers from Israel and USA.



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38. Keep Jerusalem United – create an awareness of this topic, create a poster supporting united J-m, follow the peace conference in Annapolis, MD in November 2007, keep a log of all the news in print related to J-m, and follow the demonstrations and outcomes.
39. Famous songs for J-m –
 - a. Im Eshkachech Yerushalayim - learn the words (Psalms, 137, 5-7., the music and when and why this song is sung – at weddings, Friday night in some shuls in J-m etc.
 - b. L'Shana habaa B'Yerushalyimn – learn the different tunes, when it is sung and why?
 - c. Yerushalayim Shel Zahav – learn the words, who wrote it, when it was written and why?
40. Jerusalem at Forty – view a J-m at Forty video as a trigger film to launch the topic, reason for celebration, decorate the classroom for the celebration, create a menu (food items you would eat if you were in J-m), songs of J-m, guest speaker from J-m, create a game to play similar to Jeopardy - prepare the categories and answers

Note to Educator: Feel free to adopt or adapt any of the ideas or programs to your academic setting. They are applicable to Judaic studies programs but can also be used to enhance a history lesson, a science lesson, creative writing, art, music, and school-wide and community events.