

## Basic Judaism – Options for Teaching Israel

It's very hard for me to know what to cover when only given an hour and a half to teach about Israel. Here are a variety of different options of used in different classes and settings that may be helpful. One Basic Judaism class probably needs to choose 2, maybe 3, of these 14 options. And make sure to have time for questions and answers after.

1. Matching Game. 30 pictures, find the 15 pairs. Discuss the answers. See Appendix 1
2. "Images of Israel" political cartoon exercise. See Appendix 2
3. Have them list words they think of when they hear "Israel" – write on board and go through them
4. Exercise in understanding how Democracy and Judaism both play out together in Israel:
  - a. Gaudi Taub Article (need to find it again and make it Appendix 3)
  - b. Exercise of Shapes (Appendix 4):  
Choosing between
    - i. State of all it's Citizens
    - ii. The Jewish State
    - iii. The State of the Jews
5. Read intro of "The Israelis"
6. Break into Groups for "Focus Topics" and have different people learn and present on:
  - a. Bumper Sticker song
  - b. Israel 21c – tech
  - c. Health and medical innovations
  - d. Social entrepreneurship
  - e. Humanitarian Aid
  - f. Social Development
  - g. Culture and Arts
  - h. Israeli Nobel prize winners
7. Look through Israel 101 packet from Stand with Us (Appendix 5)
8. Look through "Resource" packet (Appendix 6)
9. Look through "Activities Packet" (Appendix 7)
10. Israel 360 slide show (appendix 8)
11. Go Through (or make it a game) People to know from Israel's history. Update and go through list of 5 modern people as well. (Appendix 9)
12. Look at Pictures from Israel (Appendix 10)
  - a. may also want to update photos with more modern options
  - b. and varying religions
13. Read from "The Sabra" (Appendix 11)
14. Lecture – based on syllabus from Dave Mendelsohn's 'Israel Seminar' during YII 2006-2007
  - Zionism and the notion of "The New Jew" –

- The New Jew
- Tel-Aviv as the new Hebrew city
- Collective memory
  - Yad Vashem
  - Har Herzl
- Mass immigration
- Undermining of labor's hegemony
- Competing voices in contemporary Israel society
  - Secular Voices
  - Religious Zionism
  - Haredim & Shas
  - Progressive Judaism
  - New Immigrants
- Different communities in Israel to know:
  - The Army in Israeli Society
  - Israel's Palestinian Arabs
  - Caring for the Disadvantaged
  - Women in Israeli Society
- Navigating Differences
  - The political System
  - Dialogue Efforts
  - Presenting Israel
  - Israel-Diaspora Relations
  - Taking Israel Home