**Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel**

**Brief: Activity Book for Families in the United States – Lots of fun with nature in Israel!**

A green activity book about Israel, for the whole family:

A simple, accessible activity book about Israel’s nature, suitable for the whole family. The activity book will be divided according to the seasons of the year—fall, winter, spring, and summer. Activities will be organized according to the Hebrew calendar, so that each activity is suitable for a particular Jewish holiday.

Rationale: Following the Hebrew calendar, this is a way for Jewish families in the Diaspora to engage with Israel’s nature from the comfort of their own home.

Aims of the activity book:

1. A simple, experiential introduction to Israel’s nature.
2. Learn about nature and the environment, with a special emphasis on the values of nature preservation in Israel.
3. An experiential introduction to Israeli fauna.
4. An introduction to Israel’s nature as it relates to the Jewish holidays and seasons of the year, fostering a connection between nature across the seasons and the Jewish holidays well-known to Diaspora Jews. This creates links between Israel’s nature and the holiday customs that are familiar to Jewish communities around the world.
5. Learn about holiday traditions that have to do with Israel’s nature.

Concept: An Israeli celebration—the activity book will present Israeli holidays within the context of Israel’s nature, to create connections between the seasons of the year, the weather, migration periods, the colors of nature, the Hebrew calendar, and holiday traditions. These will be set against a backdrop of Israeli landscapes.

The activities: the activities will be suitable for all age groups and will be simple, accessible, and instructional. Parents can carry out the activities with their children without having any previous background knowledge; they can simply follow the instructions provided. For each holiday, there will be a set of activities that, together, will paint a broader picture of what nature in Israel is like during that holiday period.

**Example**:

Israeli nature on Hanukah:

1. Activities about flowers. (For example: the card game “Quartets” on the topic of flowers that bloom during the Hanukah season. Players collect four matching cards: a picture of the flower, its name in Hebrew, its name in English, and a tale about the flower.)
2. Activities about weather. (For example: Hanukah is a winter holiday. Winters in Israel are characterized by rain—a picture of the water cycle in nature.)
3. Activities about trees. (For example: because Hanukah falls close to Christmas, we will get to know the coniferous tree species that grow in Israel. Draw a line between the picture of the tree and its name in English, and its name in Hebrew.)
4. Activities about a region or site that is appropriate to Hanukah—a kind of imaginary trip to Israel. (For example: a trip to the Tomb of the Maccabees, a short comic strip that can be colored in, telling the story of an Israeli boy who goes on a trip to the Tomb of the Maccabees.)
5. Activities about animals—each time, we will learn about another one of Israel’s animals. (For example: a pull-out poster, one half of which is a photograph and the other half an illustration to be colored in. Children are instructed to color in the illustration according to the colors in the photograph. The name of the animal and some interesting fun-facts will be provided on the back of the poster.)