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## The Journey of the Ethiopian Oriyt

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### Introduction

The Jewish people have been on many long and extensive journeys throughout their history - to their homeland, into exile, from place to place and back home again. As Jews have journeyed, they have carried with them objects of significance- both sentimental and religious. The objects themselves tell the tales of those who have carried them and tell the stories of the arduous journeys they faced.

The following video takes us on a journey fraught with danger and teaches us about an important object housed in the National Library of Israel that tells the tale of the people who took that trip, of those who survived the journey, and those who unfortunately did not.

[Watch video] <https://youtu.be/eS51634UyYY>

### Activity

#### **Materials needed:**

1. Microphone
2. Stop watch

**Personal Journeys Activity- Good for Large or Small Group**

Have the group stand up and begin walking about the room on a “journey.” Have them walk for 10—15 seconds and then have them stop and speak with a fellow “traveler,” whoever is standing closest to them and ask a question for them to discuss together.

**Suggested questions to prompt conversation:**

- What is the oldest object in your home? Does it have a significant story behind it?
- Do you have an object that went on a journey? Where did it originate?
- What recipe would you take with you if you had to move to another country? Why would you choose that recipe?
- If you were moving, what one object would you be sure to take with you? Why that object? What is its significance?
- Have you been on a journey? Has anyone in your family come from afar?

After 2 or 3 minutes, the moderator signals that it is time to continue on their journey and they again begin circling the room. Ask a new question each time the group rotates.

At the end of the activity, reconvene as one group and ask people to share what they learned on their journey with the group.

**Conclusion** - Jewish history is filled with travel from place to place. Bringing objects that are important on an individual or group level have helped to make us comfortable in our new lands and have allowed each ethnic group to retain its own traditions and customs. Gathering and sharing these objects, as the National Library of Israel does, helps us to gain an appreciation of other Jewish ethnic groups and pride in our own culture.