**Tu B’Shvat Stamp**

**Lesson Information**

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| Short description of lesson | Students review what they know about Tu B’Shvat, discuss how it is celebrated in Israel, study a primary source (Tu B’Shvat stamps), and create their own Tu B’Shvat stamps |
| Age group | Primary school |
| Length of activity | 75 minutes |
| Primary sources from the NLI collections | Tu B’Shvat Stamps, 1975, <http://bit.ly/2EtPIUH> |
| Background information | * The Israel Philatelic Service – History, <http://www.israelpost.co.il/content.nsf/misparide/aboutstamp?OpenDocument> * Tu Bishvat: The Jewish Holiday & “Birthday of the Trees,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=25&v=ftLUb5gAZxw> * Tu B’Shvat: Judaism 101, <http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday8.htm> |
| Material, equipment, and preparations | * Computer and projector for Kahoot game **or** Printed offline quiz. * Tu B’Shvat stamp poster printed out and made into jigsaw puzzles – one per group  **or**  Computers with [link](https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=303889b60af5&pieces=20) to online puzzle * Copies of analysis worksheet – one per student * Art supplies   **or**  Computers with [link](https://www.canva.com/) to Canva |
| Class activity | Students work in pairs to complete a puzzle and analyse a primary source |
| Class discussion | * 1. What did you like about the design of the stamps?   2. What do the stamps say about the festival of Tu B’Shvat?   3. How do you feel when you look at the stamps? Does it fit with your feelings about Tu B’Shvat in general?   4. How is Tu B’Shvat celebrated in Israel?   5. How is Tu B’Shvat celebrated outside of Israel? Why is it celebrated differently?   6. Does your country have a day to honour trees and the environment? What is it called? How is it celebrated? |
| Creative activity | Make a Tu B’Shvat stamp |

**Lesson Plan**

1. **Introduction** (2 minutes)  
   In this lesson, we’re going to learning about Tu B’Shvat by playing games, looking carefully at a poster from Israel, and creating our own Tu B’Shvat designs.
2. **Tu B’Shvat review** (15 minutes)  
   Play the Kahoot game  
   (Text of Kahoot below. After editing I can make it public and add the link)
3. **Pairs Activity** (20 minutes)  
   Divide the students into pairs.

Each pair has two tasks:

a. Complete a puzzle of the primary source.

* **Online activity –** Students complete the puzzle [online](https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=303889b60af5&pieces=20). (This puzzle was created with 20 pieces. If it is too easy or too hard, you can change it by clicking on the “Play As” button on the top of the screen.)
* **Offline activity –** If students are not working online, prepare the puzzles before the lesson. Print the resource <link> and cut it into pieces. (If you want a stronger version, stick it onto cardboard beforehand.) (see below)

b. Complete the worksheet, analysing the given primary source. (See worksheet below)

1. **Class discussion** (15 minutes)
   1. Did you like the design of the stamps?   
      Why or why not?
   2. What do the stamps say about the festival of Tu B’Shvat?
   3. How is Tu B’Shvat celebrated in Israel?
   4. How is Tu B’Shvat celebrated outside of Israel?   
      Why is it celebrated differently?
   5. Does your country have a day to honour trees and the environment?   
      What is it called? How is it celebrated?
2. **Creative activity** (20 minutes)

Design your own Tu B’Shvat stamp.   
Consider the message you want to send about the festival and how you can use graphics and text to express it. Use traditional art materials or create it online with [Canva](https://www.canva.com/).

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Introduction to Tu B’Shvat – Quiz (Kahoot or Classroom Quiz)**

1. The Hebrew date of Tu B’Shvat is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. 2 Shvat
   2. 16 Shvat
   3. 15 Shvat
   4. 14 Adar

*The name Tu B’Shvat is an acronym of the date of the holiday. The numerical value of the letter “Tet” (9) plus the letter “Vav” (6) equals the 15th day of the month of Shvat.*

1. Tu B’Shvat is also called the Birthday of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. Trees
   2. Animals
   3. Apples
   4. Cats

*Tu B’Shvat is first mentioned in the Mishnah as the date to be used to calculate the age of the trees for the purpose of bringing contributions to the Temple. For this reason, it is sometimes called the Birthday of the Trees.*

1. Which of the following is NOT a Tu B’Shvat custom?
   1. Eating fruits from Israel
   2. Have a seder
   3. Planting trees
   4. Eating birthday cake

*Customs associated with Tu B’Shvat have evolved throughout Jewish history. They include eating fruits from Israel, conducting a Tu B’Shvat seder, and planting trees in Israel.*

1. Tu B’Shvat is mentioned in the Torah.
   1. True
   2. False

*Tu B’Shvat is not mentioned in the Torah. It is first mentioned in the Mishnah as one of the four “New Years.”*

1. The organisation in Israel which is associated with Tu B’Shvat is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. The Jewish National Fund
   2. The Jewish Agency
   3. Israel Bonds
   4. Israel Defense Forces

*The Jewish National Fund (JFN-KKL) was founded in 1901 for the purpose of acquiring and developing land in Israel. JNF is known for its campaigns to plant trees in Israel and as a caretaker of the environment.*

1. The first Tu B’Shvat seder took place in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. New York City
   2. Jerusalem
   3. Tel Aviv
   4. Tzfat

*The 16th-century kabbalists of Tzvat created the first Tu B’Shvat seder, based on the format of the Passover seder. Tu B’Shvat seders have more recently taken on an environmental and Zionist interpretation.*

1. What tradition has developed for Jews outside of Israel who can’t be in Israel to plant a tree?
   1. Baking tree-shaped cookies
   2. Building a campfire and singing Israeli songs
   3. Donating money to plant trees in Israel
   4. Wearing tree costumes

*It has become customary for Jews outside of Israel to purchase trees through the Jewish National Fund in honour of Tu B’Shvat. In this way, they too can participate in the mitzvah of planting trees in Israel.*

1. How many trees has JNF planted since its establishment in 1901?
   1. Over 240 million
   2. Over 170 million
   3. Over 310 million
   4. Over 50 million

*Planting trees in Israel has been JNF’s primary focus. Since its establishment in 1901, over 240 million trees have been planted.*

1. Which is NOT one of the seven species mentioned in the Torah?
   1. Olives
   2. Dates
   3. Oranges
   4. Pomegranates

*In Deuteronomy 8:8 the Land of Israel is described as “a land of wheat and barley, of vines, figs, and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey.” The seven species of wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates (date honey) were derived from this verse.*

1. Tu B’Shvat is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ -day holiday.
   1. 2
   2. 1
   3. 8
   4. 7

*Tu B’Shvat is a minor, one-day holiday. Unlike major holidays, such as Passover and Yom Kippur, there are no work restrictions on Tu B’Shvat.*

**Tu B’Shvat Stamp <separate doc with logo>**

**Analysis Sheet**

1. Describe your first impression of the poster. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is being advertised on the poster? Who published the poster? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Describe the illustrations on each stamp. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. What emotions do you think that the stamp is expressing? How are they expressed? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. What holiday is featured on the stamps? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. What aspects of Tu Bi’Shevat are featured on the stamps? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. Besides the ways that celebrating Tu B’Shvat are depicted on the stamps, how else is the holiday celebrated? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. How is Tu B’Shvat celebrated differently in Israel and outside of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. What features do you like about the Tu B’Shvat stamps? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. How do you celebrate Tu B’Shvat? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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