



ASK HERZL

MAKOM COMMUNITIES LESSON PLAN

Program Title: Communities in Israel Representing the Faces of Israeli Society

Program Tagline: Have your students learn about the different populations and ethnic groups living in Israel and how MAKOM communities – modern-day pioneers – strengthen society as a means of Zionism and community building

Big Ideas/Concepts Covered: Diversity in Israel, Periphery of Israel, Mission-Driven Communities, Responding to Social Needs through Community Projects

Target Audience: Elementary school – grades 1-5 – and teens

Length of Program: 45 minutes

Goal: To understand the significance and impact of community, what types of communities exist and their lifestyles, how social programs can strengthen society and grow cities in Israel's periphery

Begin with this YouTube video:

<https://youtu.be/K06QPq448A8>

Then read:

The people of Israel have made Israel what it is today; from an underdeveloped nation absorbing immigrants from around the world, we have made Israel vital and thriving thanks to its people. The strategic vision of Jewish National Fund-USA has been, and continues to be, to ensure a strong, secure, and prosperous future for the land and people of Israel. This is what MAKOM is all about—the people of Israel making Israel thrive.

For over a decade, tens of thousands of young, idealistic people have been relocating primarily in Israel's geographic periphery in the Negev and Galilee and creating over 200 MAKOM communities representing all sectors of Israeli society, including Young Educators, Ethiopians, Artists, Druze, Haredi, and other religious and secular, pluralistic communities. They have been developing Israel by making these places thrive through positive change in these areas. Hundreds of thousands of lives across Israel are being impacted through quality education, cities and towns are being brought to life through arts and culture, employment opportunities are being provided, and societal needs are being met. This is how, together with JNF-USA, MAKOM communities are developing a strong future for Israel through its people—all while ensuring no one is left behind. We are building a better Israel for all.



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Discussion Questions:

- What types of populations and ethnic groups live in Israel? How are they similar or different?
- What is a community? What's the purpose of communities? Are there different types of communities? How different would my life be with or without a community?
- Does a community have an advantage when dealing with a challenge and why?

The activity can be modified according to age group, but it helps understand the diverse cultures that make up Israel's population.

Multi-Cultural Memory Game:

Create 15 pairs of cards and have students match each culture with one of its traditions. For example:

- an Ethiopian woman and traditional "injera" bread
- a Druze man and the Druze flag
- an Orthodox man and tefillin and tallit/kippah

For teens, the focus would be how to identify community needs and organize a group project that could be a response to the need.

For example, visiting isolated senior citizens or beautifying a physical location in the city that serves the public, assist or tutor younger children with their homework, etc.

1. Divide into groups of four or five
2. Research the needs of a specific population or subject to focus on (turn to Jewish Social Services or local congregation)
3. Describe the need and provide possible solutions
4. Choose one option that is feasible and create a plan, stages, and timeline
5. Present the project to the group and each group votes on the chosen project
6. Optional fundraising for the project and implementation

Following the presentation, the groups can discuss the following:

- What was the experience of building a project together like?
- Did you have any disagreements and how did you solve them?

This is an example of how MAKOM communities operate and respond to local and social needs as an organized group.

*Additional materials and videos can be found on JNF-USA's Ask Herzl Database at jnf.org/askherzl



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