



# ASK HERZL

Program Title: Personalitrees

Program Tagline: What tree are you?

Target Audience: Lower K-5

Grade: 3, 4, 5, 6

Length of Program: 30 minutes

Goal: The ultimate educational goal is for each student to feel like his or her personal contributions and way of giving back are valued and necessary to the success of the group and for each student to feel like his or her personal contributions are important to their different communities, at school, at home, and with their friends.

Implementation:

1. Have students complete attached Personalitrees quiz
2. Have them read the descriptions of their tree's personality (listed below)
3. Have each student say what is important about their tree and what it provides to the forest

Additional questions:

1. Which three do you most identify with and why?
2. Is there only one way of giving back to our environment?
3. Do you think your giving characteristics change depending on to whom you're giving?
4. Can the forest survive with only one kind of tree? Or does the forest need all different kinds of personalitrees in order to thrive and grow?

1) **The Olive tree** is perhaps the plant most commonly associated with the land of Israel. This tree is one of Israel's seven native species and can be seen in many stories throughout the Torah, the most famous being the Olive branch used in the story of Noah's Ark.

Today, the Olive tree is the official tree of the State of Israel and its branches can be seen in the country's official seal, along with the emblem for the Israeli Defense Force. These trees are native to the Mediterranean and are the reason why some of the best Israeli meals use olives or olive oil! This plant resembles a small shrub and yields small, off-white flowers. The olive personalitree is a natural leader who loves helping others but hates the spotlight. They would much rather work behind the scenes in a group setting.



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This personalitree typically avoids conflict and uses their energy to support the ideas and dreams of their peers, rather than focus on themselves. The olive tree is always the first one to volunteer to help in class or around the house and is known for supporting their friends and family.

2) **The Eucalyptus tree** is a flower-bearing tree native to Australia. These trees were brought to Israel by the early *chalutzim* with the goal to absorb some of the marsh land, as the eucalyptus tree has very extensive roots. This network allows them to easily adapt to different climates and environments, making them able to grow in many different areas of the world. With the help of the eucalyptus tree, the early *chalutzim* were able to transform some of the uninhabitable land in northern Israel into the beautiful forests we see today. This tree also yields unique oils and is known for its calming, sweet smell. There are hundreds of different kinds of eucalyptus trees found throughout the world, however only a portion of these are able to grow in Israel.

The eucalyptus personalitree loves trying new things and is always thinking of new places to visit, books to read, and foods to try. They love sharing stories of adventures and always try to bring people along with them to join in on the fun. Although they may sometimes come across as distracted, they simply want to share their excitement for all the new things they want to do! Due to their strong roots, the eucalyptus personalitree is able to easily adapt to new communities and environments while maintaining previous relationships. This allows them to always have friends and family to visit, regardless of what city they are in!

3) **The Jerusalem Pine** is one of the most well-recognized tree in Israel, since most people in the country have seen these trees as they enter the city of Jerusalem. The majority of these trees reside in central and northern Israel, where early *chalutzim* planted these trees to add greenery to their new homes in Israel. This tree has a scaly exterior and produces pines and needles and does not produce any fruit or product that can be sold. This tree is an evergreen, meaning it keeps its lush, green leaves all year round. It grows fairly quickly and can thrive in a wide range of different types of climates and soil. The Jerusalem pine helped the early communities at home, since they share many physical traits of the trees in Europe.

This personalitree is one that is easily able to adapt to a new environment and loves to go with the flow. It prides itself on having lots of different friend groups and is always excited to meet new people. Regardless of the time of day or year, rain or shine, they have lots of energy and are often the loudest friend in the group. The Jerusalem Pine personalitree is always looking for ways to bring different kinds of people together and makes sure everyone feels that they have a place in the group. They always make sure that everyone feels at home and often goes out of their way to include everyone.



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4) **The Sabra plant** is a member of the cactus family and is primarily found in the Negev, or the Southern desert of Israel. These plants have a thick and tough exterior, but its interior is very sweet. Over time, the sabra plant became a symbol for those who were born and raised in Israel, as both the Israelis and the sabra plant are native to the land of Israel. This symbol continued to be associated with the Israeli community as they began to develop a reputation for appearing tough on the outside, but being extremely warm and friendly on the inside. Sabra plants require large amounts of sunlight and can survive on small amounts of water, making it an ideal plant for the Negev.

The Sabra personalitree is confident in its role in society and is often the most reliable friend of the group. They typically don't take no for answer and always find a way to solve a problem. They are consistent in their words, and their actions serve as a constant support system to their friends and family. Although they may seem closed off at times, the Sabra personalitree is perhaps the most loyal and dedicated friend in the group as they rarely put their needs firsts. Make sure to tell these friends how much you appreciate them!

5) **The Orange Tree** served as key tool to help jumpstart the Israeli economy when early Zionists began to cultivate the land of Israel. In areas such as Jaffa and Rehovot, Arab and Israeli communities worked together to harvest and export oranges. This provided the community with the financial resources needed to begin building infrastructure for the cities. Today, Israel serves as one of the main exporters of oranges in the world, sending about half of their annual produce to be sold abroad.

The orange personalitree is very logical, rational, and always thinks something through before they make a decision. They rarely make impulse decisions and are comforted by having a regular routine. Unlike many of their peers, they may be intimidated by the idea of change and would rather continue an activity or hobby that they know they can do. This consistency makes orange personalitrees extremely loyal to their communities and some of the most dependable friends you can find!

6) **The almond tree** is a native plant and is most commonly found in northern Israel. Although it is not one of the seven species of Israel, the almond tree is mentioned several times throughout the Torah, giving it an important role in Israeli culture. In fact, the most popular song we sing to celebrate Tu BiShvat every year is all about an almond tree that has begun to bloom! When we sing *hashkediah porachat* we are celebrating the beautiful, light pink flowers that we now are able to see on the almond trees throughout Israel.



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The almond tree is rather unique its ability to re-grow itself after harvest, even if the majority of the plant has been cut off. This means that year after year we get to enjoy yummy almonds as we celebrate Tu BiShvat! In addition to this characteristic, another little-know fact is that the flavor of the almond is determined by where on the tree the fruit is cut. This explains why we have sweet and bitter tasting almonds!

The almond personalitree prides themselves on having a unique personality and identity. They love forming their own opinions and values and never follow the crowd. Through their different experiences and passions, they are able to blend different ideas and lifestyles together to make something that is truly their own.



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WHAT'S YOUR  
**PERSONALITY TREE?**



**FOR DINNER, DO YOU:**

Order your favorite thing  
or try something new?

FAVORITE

NEW

Behind the Scenes  
OR  
Center Stage?

Early Bird  
OR  
Night Owl?

BEHIND

CENTER

EARLY

NIGHT

Cats  
OR  
Dogs?

Make Your Own  
OR  
Buy New?

Rain  
OR  
Sunshine?

Travel  
OR  
Stay Home?

DOG

CAT

NEW

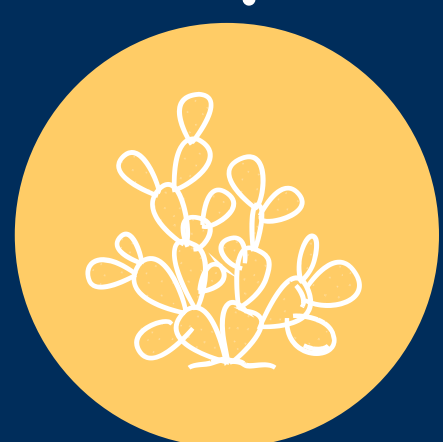
MAKE

RAIN

SUN

TRAVEL

STAY



SABRA



ORANGE TREE



ALMOND TREE



OLIVE TREE



EUCALYPTUS TREE



PINE TREE