



Learning Activity:
Yom Ha'atzmaut / Israel Independence Day

Israel's History through Stamps

by Rabbi Maurice D. Harris



What is this?

This resource is an opportunity to learn about Israeli culture, history and modern achievements by exploring its postage stamps. These stamps were collected over the years, and each one tells a story... you can do this activity alone, with a Havruta partner online/ in person, as a family, or in a larger group setting. And this can be adapted with your own voice, of course! Read the instructions below to begin.

How does it work?

Each page includes an enlarged image of an actual Israeli postage stamp. (Some of the pages have two stamps that are related to each other.) Give each participant a page. Their task is to do some online research about the person, place, events, or subject depicted in the stamp. Each person will present what they have learned to the rest of the group. You can adjust the amount of information they are expected to present based on the specific needs and goals of your group.

What are the goals of this activity?

Participants will learn new and interesting things about Israel and its history and people, deepening their relationship to Israel and adding to the complexity and diversity of their understanding of Israeli society.

In some cases, the stamps do not depict events involving modern Israel, but instead depict scenes from ancient Jewish history. In those cases, participants should report on the events or people depicted in their stamp, and offer their thoughts on the question, "Why would people living in modern Israel be inspired or interested in what's happening in this stamp?" There is no single correct answer to this question - it's a chance for them to imagine themselves as Israelis who are using these stamps. Why would their postal service think this mattered to them?

Finally, it is intentional that the people in these stamps are not the most famous Israelis. The goal is to learn about lesser known people and their contributions to Israeli society.

Israel's Declaration of Independence



Rachel Bluwstein



The Maccabiah Games



Sara Levi-Tanai



Eliezer Ben-Yehuda



Rachel (from the story of Genesis in the Torah)



The Weizmann Institute of Science



Moses speaking to Pharaoh



Rabbi Joshua Ben Hananiah

מועדים לשמחה תש"ט

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בן הושע
Rabbi Joshua Ben Hananiah



1.80 ISRAEL
ישראל א.י. 1979

חכמים בעלי מלאכה
Sages-Craftsmen

(Note: The stamp contains extensive Hebrew text on the left and right sides, which is partially obscured or illegible in this view. The central text and image are the primary focus.)

A Havdalah Spice Box



The "Seven Species" of the Holy Land



Zelda Schneurson Mishkovsky
(known to her readers as "Zelda")



The 12 Tribes of Israel in the Hebrew Bible



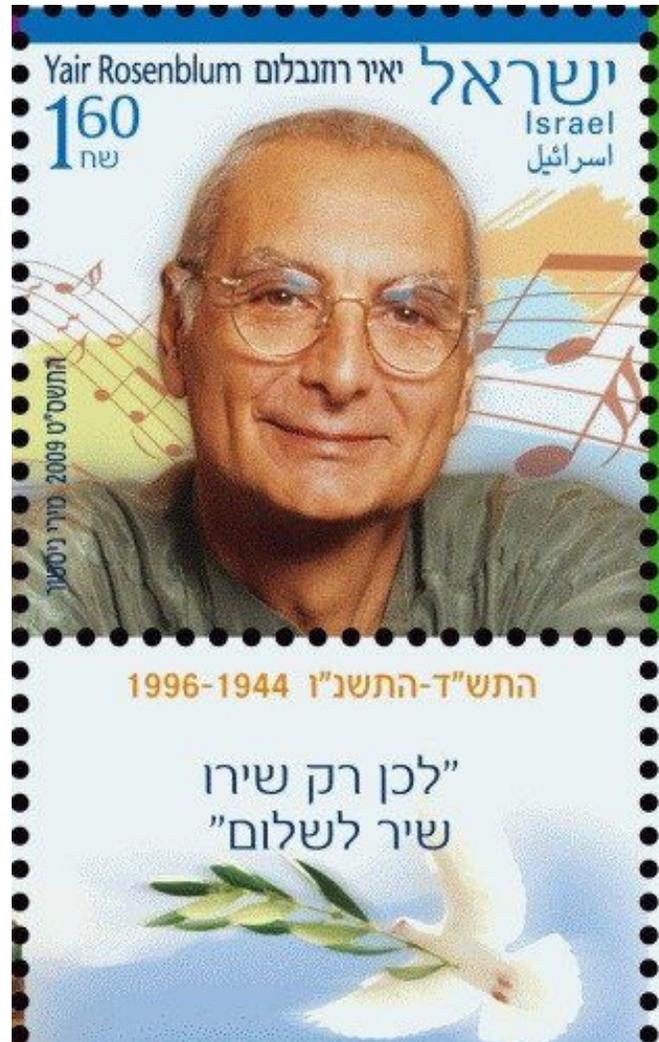
The Dead Sea and Mt. Everest



Peace between Jews and Muslims



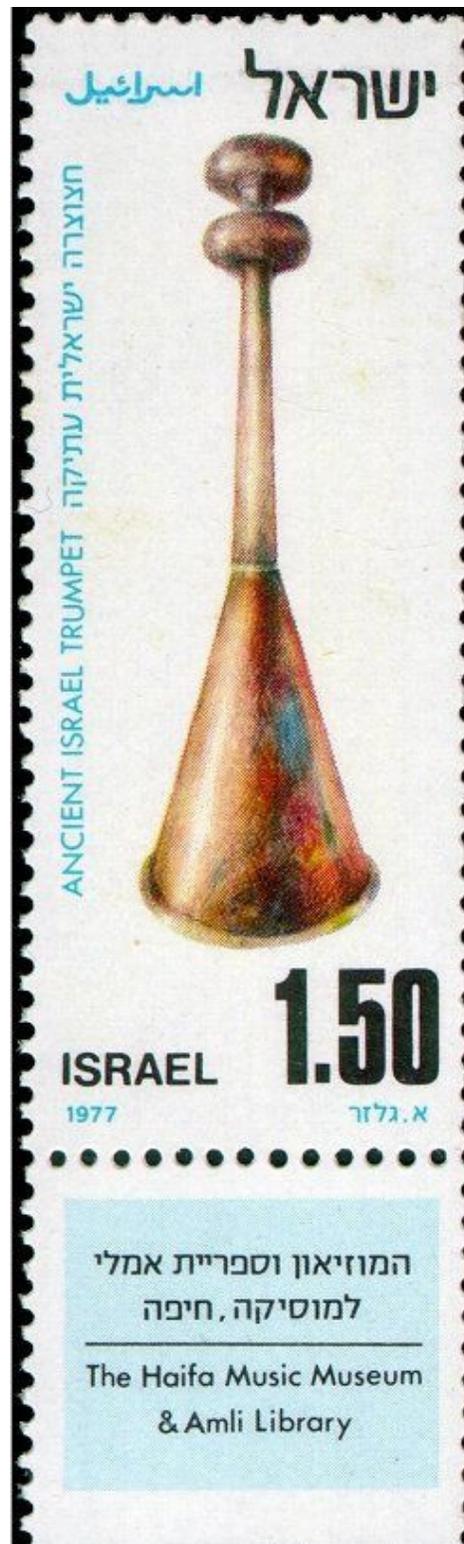
Yair Rosenblum



The Chagall Windows



The Haifa Music Museum



Recha Freier



VOIP

י ש ר א ל

טלפוניה אינטרנטית
Voice over Internet Protocol
التحادث عبر الإنترنت



اسرائيل ISRAEL

6.50 שח

התשס"ט 2009 חיימי קיבוקביץ



Rosa Luxemburg



Sarah Aaronsohn



Synagogue Stone Menorah - Tiberias 2nd Century CE



Irrigation Technology

