

When You Come to the Land and You Shall Grow Any Plant at the Beginning

Planting – Lesson Plant for Grade 3

This lesson plan deals with sources for the term planting in Jewish ancient and modern culture and indicates that planting and its importance are not a modern invention, rather, they are rooted in our ancient culture. In addition, the lesson plan deals with the stages of planting, and the growth of the tree. And with the importance of the act of planting and its significance through legends, tales and poems.

- Why do people plant?
- How do they plant? What are the stages of planting, and the stages of the growth of a tree.
- What is the connection between planting and Tu Bishvat? Early planting.
- A story, a poem and a legend on planting.

Lesson 1 – Why do People Plant?

²³ **When you enter the land and plant any kind of fruit tree**, regard its fruit as forbidden. For three years you are to consider it forbidden; it must not be eaten. ²⁴ In the fourth year all its fruit will be holy, an offering of praise to G-d. ²⁵ And in the fifth year you may eat its fruit. In this way your harvest will be increased. I am G-d your Lord. (Leviticus 19)

From the beginning of the world's creation, the Holy-One-Blessed-Be-He did not deal with anything that preceded planting. As it is written: "And G-d the Lord planted a garden in Eden". Likewise, when you enter the Land of Israel, do not deal with anything other than plant, to begin with.

⁷ And G-d the Lord formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸ **And G-d the Lord had planted a garden in the east, in Eden**; and he put there the man he had formed. ⁹ And G-d the Lord made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. And in the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Genesis 2)

Leviticus – When you Enter

- What is the first commandment when you enter the land? (Planting)
- Why, in your opinion, is it worthwhile to plant when you enter the Land of Israel? What does the planting provide? Why must it be done earlier than other acts, how long does it take from the





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planting until one can enjoy the fruits? (So that there would be fruits to eat, it takes trees several years until it gives off fruit).

The Medrash – From the beginning of its Creation

- Explain difficult words
- To whom does the Medrash compare the children of Israel? (to G-d)
- Why were the children of Israel instructed to plant trees as one of the first acts to do when they entered the land? (Just as G-d had dealt with planting, so must we plant)
- What does the comparison to G-d teach about the commandment of planting teach us? (That it is an important commandment, it is holy and turns people into partners with the Lord)

Songs on Planting

The Almond Tree is Blooming

Lyrics: Israel Dushman / Music: Menashe Rabina

The almond tree is blooming
 And the golden sun is shining,
 Birds atop each roof
 Announce the arrival of the festival.

Tu Bishvat has arrived
 (It's) the festival of trees.

The land is crying out The time of planting has arrived

Each person shall take a tree
 .We'll stride out with spades
 Tu Bishvat has arrived
 (It's) the festival of trees.

Difficult Word – The Almond Tree Is Blooming

Paz – Bright light, gold
Mevasrot – predict, announce
Meshava'at – needs, asks for, beseeches
Et (spelled תא)- shovel
Et (spelled טע) – time
Latzet Chotzetz – to dig out

Difficult Words – The Song of the Sapling

Yashkim – shall rise early
Gie – a valley
Makeh Shoresh – grows roots, gets attached to the ground.

The Song of the Sapling

Lyrics: Yitzhak Shenhar / Melody: Joel Walbe

Both in the city and in the town
 A boy shall rise
 And shall go out to the valley and mountain
 With green saplings

On this day we shall plant and seed
 And we shall grow roots
 One or two years shall pass
 And there will be a forest here.

Sing to the sapling
 From Judea until the Galilee
 Plant and seed, seed and plant
 You and me!

Why do People Plant?

- What are the reasons for planting in the song, The Almond Tree is Blooming (Pay attention to the highlighted rows)
- Why is the land crying out? What, in your opinion, was the condition of the land when the song was written?
- What are the reasons of planting in the song, The Sapling? (Pay attention to the highlighted rows)
- Who shall grow the roots? The trees or the people?
- How is tree planting connected to the attachment of people to the land and to the soil?
- Try to recall an experience of planting or working on the land, how did you feel during the task and after it was done? Did it make you more attached to the place?





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The Process of Planting and Growth

This is how they walk,
 With joy in their hearts and a spade in hand,
 From the city and from the village
 From the valley and from the mountain.
 On Tu Bishvat!
 On Tu Bishvat!

Why have you come, planters?
 We shall hit the ground and the rocks
 And we shall dig holes around
 In mountains and on planes.
 On Tu Bishvat!
 On Tu Bishvat!

What shall be here
 Planters
 A sapling shall be placed
 In every pothole,
 An endless forest shall spread its shade
 On our barren country.
 On Tu Bishvat!
 On Tu Bishvat!

Word Definitions

Ron – A happy song

Karka – earth

Tzur - a hard rock

Gumot - small pits

- Mark words connected to actions of planters.
- What stages of planting activities show up in the song?

Bringing the sapling to the planting location.

Digging the plant hole.

Placing the sapling in the hole.

Filling the hole.

Watering the sapling

- You may have the children draw the planting stages, and naturally, to go out and plant as well.

The Cycle of the Plant's Life

In each square below, draw a picture to match the title

1. Flowering	2. Sprouting	3. Fruit Ripening	4. Mature Plant	5. Seed





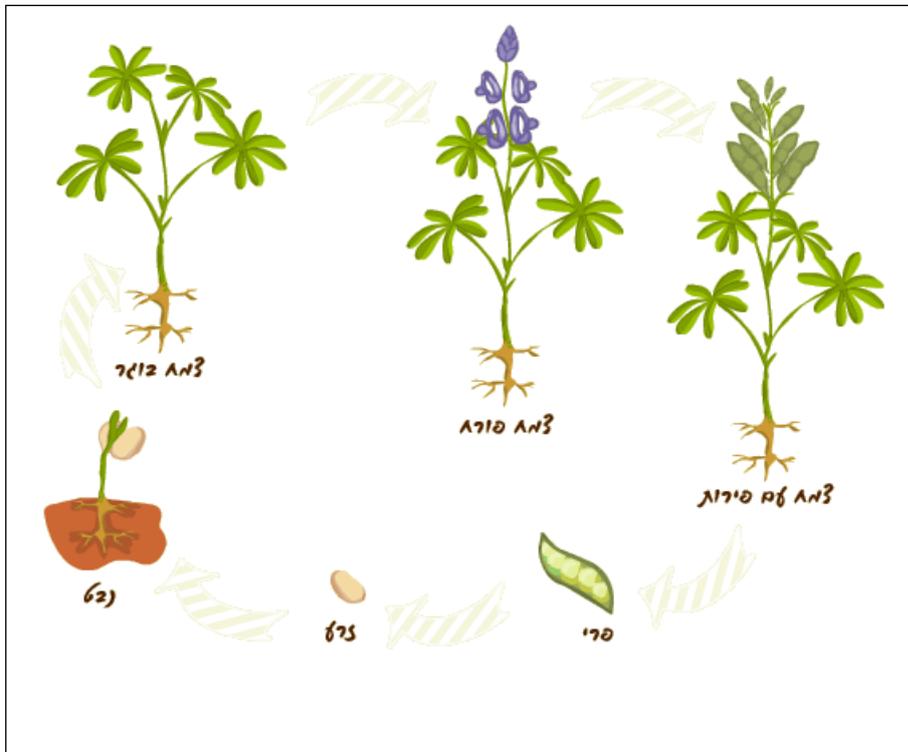
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Organize the titles marking the pictures you have drawn according to the process of growth

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Actually, it is a cycle (therefore it depends on which stage you begin with):



Lesson 2 – The Importance of Planting and Tales of Planting?

Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakai said:

If you had a sapling in your hand, and someone tells you: Mashiach has arrived.

First plant your sapling and then go out and greet him.

(Avot of Rabbi Natan)

1. What is the situation described in the Medrash? What are the two acts the man is deliberating about?
2. What does Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakai say? Which of them precedes the other – planting or Mashiach?
3. Why does the planting take priority? What does this teach us about the importance of planting?





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"Once, Honi ha-Me'agel was strolling along. On his way, he saw a fellow planting a carob tree. He asked him: "How long does it take for the carob tree to give off fruit"? The latter answered: "Seventy years". He asked him further: "Do you know whether you will be alive in seventy years from now so that you can eat from it"? The latter replied: "I found carob trees in this world. Just as my fathers have planted for me, I shall plant for my children".

(Bavli Tractate Ta'anit)

Definition of Difficult Words

Toen Peirot – Gives off fruit, *Bari* – it is clear, known

1. What does Honi ask the man? Why does he wonder about his action?
2. What does the man answer Honi? What is the reason he is planting?
3. What are the characteristics of a man who plants although he is not sure he will enjoy the fruits of his labor?
4. What would happen if all people would only do whatever is worthwhile for them, so that they alone would enjoy the fruits of their labor?
5. What is the lesson of the story? What is it important to plant although we are not sure we would enjoy the fruits?

It is told that Zikhron Ya'akov, the settlement in heart of the Carmel, is where the holiday of plants was conceived. This occurred on the 15th of Shvat in 1890. A small group of children set out from their school in Zikhron Ya'akov, accompanied by their principal. The children held small saplings in their hands and planted trees on the outskirts of the colony. This is how the Israeli tradition of planting trees on Tu Bishvat was created. It didn't take long after this incident for the custom to spread out all over Israel. The initiator of the tradition was Ze'ev Yavetz, a writer, researcher and historian, who was the principal of the school in Zikhron Ya'akov at the end of the 19th century.





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Stories and Songs about Planting

Hadrian the King and the Fig Planter

As King Hadrian set out with his conscripts to conquer a country that had rebelled against him, he encountered an old man planting fig trees. "Hadrian said to him," You are old, working hard and toiling for others" .

He said to him: My Lord, king. I am planting. If I have the merit. I will eat my own fruit, and if not, my sons will eat them.

The king spent three years in the war and then returned. He found the old man in the same place. What was the old man doing? He took a basket and filled it with beautiful figs and approached Hadrian.

And said to him: Dear king, accept these from your servant. I am the old man you had encountered on your way to the war and you had said to me: You are old, why are to standing and working for others. Well, G-d had already given me the merit to eat the fruit of my labor. And these, that are in the basket, I grant you as a gift. So Hadrian immediately told his servants: Take it from him and fill it with gold coins, and they did just that.

Therefore, a person should not refrain from planting. Yet just as he found trees, he should continue planting even if he is old.

Midrash Tanchuma

How is it to be a Tree/ Datia Ben - Dor

I once asked a tree:

Tree, how is it to be a tree:

You are probably joking –
said the tree.

No, no I said.

I'm absolutely serious.

Is it good or bad?

Bad?! – wondered the tree – why?

Doesn't it bother you to be stuck in one place all week?

I'm not stuck.

I am actually planted.

And don't you sometimes feel like

Going to visit friends,

Or to see what goes on

in other places

I have no need to move around,

birds sing to me constantly,

butterflies kiss me,

The wind embraces,

and before my eyes the entire horizon opens.



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And at night when all are asleep, so what?
At night I listen to the silence
And hear
how the earth breathes,
how fruit ripen,
how dew descends.
And in my branches - nestlings rest,
And I keep them asleep.
I love you, tree – I said,
And I went to my garden
And planted a tree across my window.

The Lonely Pine Tree / Yehuda Paradis

The Narrator:

Among the mountains of Jerusalem
One mountain stands bald
It has no shade and has no water –
It doesn't have even a single flowering blossom.
Nothing at all grows there
And all is dry and drought,
It is surrounded by dirt alone,
Stones, rocks and sand.
Yet on its very peak
A lonely pine tree stands.

The Sun:

I have no time at all
I must run along
But I promise to get back again
If I can help in any way!

The Pine:

Once again, I stand alone,
And with me there is no one.

The Narrator:

So the unfortunate pine
Complained and complained
Until a whitish small fat cloud
Was just passing by

The Pine:

Good morning, dear cloud,
Come please sit here on the mount!





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The Cloud:

I can't there is no water here
I'll stay in the sky
But I promise to get back again
If I can help in any way!

The Pine:

Once again, I stand alone,
And with me there is no one.

The Narrator:

So the unfortunate pine
Complained and complained
Till a day-wind passed by
And to her the pine called out:

The Pine:

Good morning Ms. Wind!
Come and site here by my side!

The Wind:

How can I rest upon the mountain?
There is no shade there is just nothing!
But I promise to get back again
If I can help in any way!

The Pine:

Once again, I stand alone,
And with me there is no one.

The Narrator:

So the unfortunate pine
Complained and complained
Till two rabbits hopped just by
And neared the pine tree at its side

The Pine:

C'mon here rabbits,
Be my friends!

The Rabbits:

Everything is dry and gray
But we promise to come again
If we can help in any way!

The Pine:

Once again, I stand alone,



And with me there is no one.

The Narrator:

So the unfortunate pine
Complained and complained
Till some birds were flying by
And the Pine gave it a try:

The Pine:
How would you like to stay
And take my boredom away?

The Birds:
How can we sit without any trees?
Where shall we lay our eggs and breed?
But we promise to come again
If we can help in any way!

The Pine:
Woe is to me, I'm bitter, see,
I'm so bored on the mountain here,
I'll be standing here for good
To be with me – just no one would!

The Narrator:
So the unfortunate pine
Complained and complained
One the mountain top he stood alone
Until his heart almost broke down
Until one bright day they came
A group of children from the town
Girls and boys
So full of charm
Who climbed together
To the mountain top
And the pine said to them:

The Pine:
Girls and boys
Would you like to
Sit nearby and stay
And I shall be your friend in every way

Child 1:
Poor pine its so sad he must
Stand here alone like a mast



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Child 2:

He is actually such a poor soul
He has no friends at all!

Child 3:

To be alone day and night
Is a terrible plight.

Child 4:

Let us help this lonely tree
Otherwise, his life is misery!

Child 5:

We cannot sit here and stay
To are studies we must go without delay.

Child 6:

We must return – is the conclusion
But I found a solution:
We'll return on Tu Bishvat
Each with a sapling to plant,
When the spring comes around
We'll plant trees all around!

The Pine:

Hey children, thanks!
It is not a long wait,
Spring shall be here
And its green will be near.
If the mount is bare now
It is soon sure to blossom.
Sun, wind and clouds
Wil guard each small tree
Rabbits and birds
Will become my good pals
And children will walk
In the shade of the woods!

Suggestions for Activities on the Songs and Stories

1. Mark words connected to the holiday or to trees in the texts.
2. Complete missing words.
3. Divide the text into parts, by pictures, draw the contents of the text.
4. Present the poem/story as a play.



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