

# THEME DAY: YOM HA'ATZMAUT

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SESSION 1

**STARTER:** It's Israel's Independence Day/Birthday! Watch [Sesame Street Visits Israel](#) and a good [3-min overview of Yom Ha'atzmaut specifically](#), which delivers good visual insight and some info to absorb. Then *choose a range of activities from the selection below!*

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**ISRAELI FLAG SUPERHERO CAPES:** Grab a parent's old t-shirt and [follow these easy steps on youtube](#) or put together simple material and ribbon [with this guide](#). Paint or craft the Israeli flag onto the cape. If you can pre-buy some silly string, use it like spidey webs - and just general Yom Ha'atzmaut fun!



**ARCHEOLOGICAL ICE DIG: Part 1**

People have lived in Israel for thousands of years. And archeologists are always finding things that people once used, even hundreds or thousands of years ago. Explain archeology a little more then prepare your own dig! Pick a few small toys/lego/beads (maybe have a blue and white theme). Get some molds like muffin tins for small or a whole casserole dish for large or try out different sizes. Place toys into your mold/s, add water and....FREEZE. You can add food colouring to the water. Check back on them later.



**STAR OF DAVID CRAFT:** The star of david (magen david) is made up of two triangles. A triangle is made up of 3 lines. Ask your kids how many different ways can they make a Star of David with things around the house. First using household props, then using craft items such as paddlepop sticks, pipecleaners, toilet paper rolls, cardboard, etc. Add it (and any other art you make) to the [LoveLovesrael Israel Art Show online gallery](#).

**MAKE HUMMUS/HUMUS/CHUMUS:** 5 tablespoons tahina \* 3 tablespoons water \* 6 tablespoons lemon juice \* 16 ounces/450g canned chickpeas, drained \* ½ teaspoon salt \* 1 or 2 cloves garlic. [Instructions on PJ Library](#)

**DIVERSITY SALAD (AND KNIFE SKILLS)**

*Israel has nearly 9 million people living in the country. Lots of different cultures, religions and birth countries. It's like a salad bowl: carrots, cucumbers, tomato are each yummy on their own, but together can also become something new and tasty. It's the idea of integrating different cultures while maintaining separate identities (as opposed to a melting pot).* Make an Israeli salad with your veggies of choice and get the kids to cut and squeeze and practice knife work. For eg: Cut equal amounts of cucumber and tomato. If you want to add a dressing, combine 3 TB olive oil, 3 TB fresh lemon and salt to taste. Also, squeeze 'Jaffa' oranges to make juice.



SESSION 2

**HAVE AN ELECTION!**

Remember all the times we went to vote in the last two years? Say a few lines about democracy. Then host a vote in your home!

- MAKE a ballot box (tissue box, shoe box) paint it blue and make a slit.
- MAKE a voting booth (for eg, cardboard box screen or re-position furniture)
- MAKE voting card sets (you can pre-print or use as part of a craft colouring activity: for eg fruit set, veggie set, toy set)
- VOTE! Every family member needs to take an envelope, go behind the booth, choose their fave fruit (or whatever set you use), put it in the envelope, and then put the envelope in the voting box.
- COUNT! Once everyone has voted, open all the envelopes and count the results.
- REPEAT with different topics/card sets
- SHARE this idea with friends and compare results between families.



SESSION 3

**PAPER PLANES FLYOVER**

Israel's Yom Ha'atzmaut flyover is a highlight for kids. Make your own at home. Up your game and watch this video with [5 different ways you can make a paper plane](#).

**'HEBREW' UNIVERSITY**

- HEBREW SONGS: Google Yom Ha'atzmaut playlists, search for Israel Eurovision songs, or check out [HOP Yaldut Yisraelit Youtube Channel](#) for kids songs in Hebrew
- HEBREW LETTERS: Do some age/stage appropriate Hebrew letter games or practice. Kid's and family names are always a good place to start/return.



**ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG WITH ICE FOSSILS Part 2:** When your ice fossils are ready, it's time to dig! Try to let the kids work out different ways to dig. Keep checking in with them, prompting where needed, asking what else might help (for eg strength, something sharper, heat). The only rule is that they may hit the ice with anything, but must be careful of all fingers.



**DEAD SEA FUN WITH MUD AND WATER**

Ask what they know about the Dead Sea. Then explain anything extra about it. Kids can then cover their bodies with mud (paint), and float in the Dead Sea (bath/blow-up pool).

