

B”H

Torah Fair Student Handbook



Dear Hebrew School Student,

Hooray! You are about to set out on a very exciting adventure, an adventure through the wonderful world of our Torah. You may be wondering, "Where do I begin?", "Whom do I ask for help?" and many similar questions. Most, if not all, the answers to your questions are right here in your Torah Fair Handbook. All the new and exciting information that you will be discovering will be through the research that you do. You can find things out by reading, web surfing, and by asking people who you know can help you. Your parents, teachers, and your relatives may know a whole lot more than you think!

Step #1: Choose a Topic

Your first important job to do is to look through the topics that are in this handbook for your grade level. Find something you are interested in learning more about. You may also want to choose a topic depending on your available resources. For example, if someone in your family knows a lot about King David, or if you have an interesting book all about the story of 'Daniel in the Lion's Den', you may want to explore the topic. The main thing is, choose something that YOU feel good about and want to explore in a deeper way.

Step #2: Reserve Your Topic

Once you have decided which topic is right for you, tell your teacher what you will be doing your report on. He or she will write it down and make sure that your topic was not already taken. That's to be sure that what you will be researching will be completely original - there won't be another project out there like yours! So be sure to come to a decision soon.

Step #3: Before You Begin

So, what do you need before you begin your research project? You will need a pencil and a special notebook just for this project, to write down important facts and information. You will probably need to set aside a good time during your week to do your research. And of course, a quiet place where you can work undisturbed. Your teacher will be checking your notebooks every few weeks to see how you are doing with your note-taking.

Step #4: Collect Information

It's time to get started. Ask people who know a little about your topic to help you with information. Use any books you have at home that can assist you in your research. You might want to take a visit to your local library or nearest Jewish bookstore to find useful books, maps, and pictures. If you have a computer to look up facts on your topic, use the list of helpful websites at the back of this booklet. And pay close attention in Hebrew School for any information you learn that might be connected to your project.

Step #5: Write Your Report

When choosing a topic, every grade has a specific area to choose from - as you will see toward the end of the booklet. Following each category of topics, you will see a list of questions pertaining to those topics. As you begin to collect information, be sure to keep the list of questions handy and answer them as you go along. Use the questions and answers to write up a report about your topic. Your report will be displayed at the Torah Fair so that you can share the information with everyone. Of course you want it to look very nice. This means, you will be sure people can read it easily without finding lots of mistakes. It should be written in a way that makes sense, that is interesting, and that is neat.

Step #6: Create a Backboard Display

With all the new things you will be learning, you will want to have something to show everyone what you have discovered. Now is the time to see the real artist that you are! You can create all kinds of interesting things with paper and markers, construction paper and scissors, wood, plastic, paint, glue...the list is endless! At the Torah Fair, you will bring a backboard to put up pictures, drawings, quotes, maps, charts, and anything that you found to be interesting about your topic.

Step #7: Your Creative Project

In addition to the backboard and report choose a format in which to illustrate your information in a creative way.

Kindergarten and 1st Grade will work on a group project together with their teacher in school

Students can choose from the following presentation options:

Diorama:

A diorama is a scrolling story constructed within a shoe box. A long scroll of taped together paper is attached to two pencils after the two pencils have been inserted through holes in the top and bottom of the shoe box. The scroll will contain the student's report, answering all of the questions pertaining to his/her topic. Once the scroll is complete, it is taped securely onto the pencils within the shoebox. Each child will have this diorama as their display at the Torah Fair, accompanied with a standalone backboard. If all the report questions are answered in the diorama, an additional report is not required.

Board Game:

Each child will choose a board game that they like, particularly one that requires you to pick up cards and make your next move based on the information on the cards. Each card should pertain to another question in the Torah Fair Topics packet on his/her topic. For example: Your game board is fashioned like candy land. Players have to pick a card and answer the multiple choice question on the card. If they get it right (by checking the answer key that you made), they get to advance to the color on the card. If not, they have to stay where they are. A question could be: "What special food do we eat on Purim? a) graggers b) latkes or c) hamentashen" The first part that each student should work on is making the cards. The next part is designing the board game. At the Torah Fair, the game should be set up with all playing pieces, cards, answer key, and a page that has the title of the project, the student's name and the game's instructions. The board game should be accompanied by a standalone backboard as well as a written report (see step #5 and #6). There are LOTS of different possibilities for this, because there are all kinds of games out there. Choose a game that YOU like and be creative!

Newspaper:

A newspaper is a great way to get a peak at the life and culture during a specific time in history. What was on the front page news? What were the day to day discussions? What types of things were found in the classified advertisements? All these details, both small and large, add up to the complete picture of what was happening at a given point in time. Now it is your job to take the pen and be the newspaper editor. Create a front page news article, letters to the editor, advertisements, a weather report, and any other feature usually found in a newspaper. All parts of your newspaper should help illustrate your chosen this project.

For example: if your topic is 'Mabul - Noach and the Flood', your news article may be titled, "Flood Warning" and your advertisements may include "Need someone to help waterproof your home? Call us for the best price!" A standalone backboard and written report should accompany the newspaper. (see step #5 and #6)

3 Dimensional Model:

Students will create a 3 dimensional model to illustrate the topic of their project. You can choose any combination of materials that you feel most comfortable working with. Some ideas could be: clay, wood, Lego, or cardboard. Try to include as much information as possible within your 3D model. A short paragraph explaining the scene depicted in your model, should be placed in front of the model. In addition, a standalone backboard and written report (see step #5 and #6) should accompany the model. This choice leaves room for enormous creativity. Let your imagination travel as you create a historical masterpiece!

PowerPoint Slide Show:

Students will work on answering each question in the Torah Fair Topics packet as a different slide in their slide show. They can record themselves speaking/narrating and insert it as sound clips into their slide shows. In order for this to work, students will need to work on a computer at home equipped with Microsoft PowerPoint in order to prepare their slideshows. Each student will also need to bring in a laptop and extension cord to display their slideshow. Any student who will be unable to bring in a laptop from home should speak with their teacher and we will work on making other arrangements. A standalone backboard should accompany the slideshow presentation. If all the report questions are answered in the Power point slide show, an additional written report is not required.

Due Dates:

January 6: Topic to be chosen

January 20: Topic questions answered and handed in to
teacher for review.

Torah Fair Presentation and Awards Ceremony:

Sunday, February 10

11:30-12:30

Good Luck!!!

Torah Fair Topics

The following are the list of topics for the Torah Fair divided by grade level. The examples provided are just to give you an idea. You can come up with your own example within the topic for your grade.

Kindergarten and First Grade students on group projects during school time.

Second Grade: Jewish Heroes & Heroines

Examples to choose from:

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|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| • Avraham (Abraham) | ◇ Yosef (Joseph) | ◇ Yehoshua (Joshua) |
| ◇ Yitzchak (Isaac) | ◇ Moshe Rabeinu (Moses) | ◇ Hillel the Sage |
| ◇ Yaakov (Jacob) | ◇ Miriam | ◇ Daniel |
| ◇ Sarah | ◇ Devorah the Judge | ◇ Rabbi Akiva |
| ◇ Rivkah (Rebecca) | ◇ King David | |
| ◇ Rachel | ◇ Samuel the Prophet | |
| ◇ Leah | ◇ Elijah the Prophet | |
| ◇ Queen Esther | | |

Questions to Answer:

- ◇ When did this person live? Where?
- ◇ What was his/her life like?
- ◇ What kind of challenges (hard times) did he/she go through?
- ◇ What makes him/her so special?
- ◇ What lessons can you learn from him/her?
- ◇ What great accomplishments did he/she accomplish?
- ◇ Which books or teachings did this person leave us?
- ◇ Why is this person special to you?

Third Grade: Jewish Holidays

Examples to choose from:

- Rosh Hashanah
- ◊ Yom Kippur
- ◊ Sukkot
- ◊ Simchat Torah
- ◊ Chanukah
- ◊ Tu B'shvat
- ◊ Purim
- ◊ Pesach
- Rosh Chodesh
- Asarah B'Tevet
- Shiva Asar B'Tamuz
- Tisha B'Av

Questions to Answer:

- ◊ What Jewish month is this holiday in? What day?
- ◊ Can you find the source for the holiday in the Torah?
- ◊ What are we celebrating on this day?
- ◊ What do you do on this holiday?
- ◊ How long is it? Is this holiday longer or shorter in Israel – explain.
- ◊ What are the laws?
- ◊ What are the customs?
- ◊ Do we eat any special foods on this holiday?
- ◊ What special prayers do you add on this holiday?
- Do we read from the Torah on this holiday? What is the Torah reading about?
- From how many Torahs?
- ◊ Why is this holiday special to you?

Fourth, Fifth, & Sixth Grade: Biblical Events

Examples to choose from:

- ◊ Briat Haolam – the Creation of the World
- ◊ Mabul – Noach and the Flood
- ◊ Matan Torah – the giving of the Torah
- ◊ Akaidat Yitzchak – the binding of Isaac
- ◊ Yetziat Mitzrayim – Exodus from Egypt
- ◊ Kriat Yam Suf – the splitting of the Red Sea
- ◊ Kibbush Ha'aretz – conquering the land of Israel
- ◊ The battle between David and Goliat
- ◊ Shimshon Hagibor's battle with the Plishtim
- ◊ Chana prays for a son (Shmuel Hanavi)
- ◊ Shmuel Hanavi disproves Idol Worship
- ◊ Daniel is thrown in the Lion's Den
- ◊ Shlomo Hamelech builds the Beit Hamikdash

Questions to Answer:

- ◊ When and where did this event occur? How long did it last?
- ◊ Give a detailed description of the event from beginning to end.
- ◊ Why did it happen?
- ◊ Who was involved?
- ◊ What was the outcome?
- ◊ Which Sefer (book) of Tanach (the 5 books of the Torah) is the event recorded? What chapters?
- ◊ What lessons did you learn from the event?
- ◊ What are some thoughts or feelings you would have about it if you were alive when it happened?
- ◊ Why is this event special to you – what made you choose it?