KITAH DALET (4TH)

Where does Jewish Geography come from?—Where we’ve wandered and where we’ve settled

Topics: Torah stories (Exodus), holidays, Hebrew reading, Tefillah, Jewish History, Israel

Tefillah: Ma’ariv Aravim/Yotzer Or, Ashrei, Aleinu—continue from previous year, Food blessings (before and after), Shabbat Kiddush, Holiday songs and prayers

Big Ideas:
● Our experiences of slavery and wandering in the desert transformed us from individuals to a People with shared identity, experiences, and history.
● While Jews have lived all over the world for many years, we still share a common history—Torah—as well as many historical trends.
● Medinat Yisrael (the State of Israel) gives Jews from all over the world a chance to re-join a common history—the history of the State of Israel.
● Reading Hebrew allows us to participate in synagogues and be part of the Jewish community all over the world.
● Praying in community is an important way Jews connect to God.

Essential Questions:
● What did the Jews learn and experience through slavery, Exodus, and wandering in the desert? How did that change their identity?
● What history do all Jews have in common? What historical trends got us to where we are today?
● How does the existence of the modern country of Israel change Jewish history? How could it change my own family’s history?
● How do I best communicate with God?

Objectives:

Students will learn how to...
● Ask thoughtful questions about Torah stories and characters.
● Make connections between Torah, holidays, history and Israel.
● Make personal connections between their lives and Torah, holidays, history and Israel.
● Read Hebrew and to follow along in the siddur (prayer book).
Students will understand...

- The major stories of Sefer Shemot (Exodus) and part of Sefer Vayikra (Leviticus)—including the characters, basic plots, and mitzvot that we can apply to our own lives.
- That kashrut was a mitzvah given to us in the Torah, and that it has not changed all that much over the years. The basic laws of kashrut are...
- The sources (Torah or historical), stories, customs, and traditions associated with 5 Jewish holidays.
- The Biblical and religious connections to Eretz Yisrael (the land of Israel).
- That Israel has welcomed millions of Jews who fled inhospitable situations since its founding. Israel provides Jews from all over the world a safe haven and a homeland to return to.
- Praying together, in Hebrew, is one way we communicate with God.

Students will believe that...

- We read the Torah every year because we can always learn new ideas or be reminded of old ones.
- The characters in the Torah show us how we should (and shouldn’t) live our lives.
- Jewish holidays are personally meaningful to us because....
- We have ancient, Biblical connections to Eretz Yisrael, and we are part of the chain connecting Israel and Torah.
- Our shared and diverse pasts add to the beautiful tapestry of Jewish peoplehood and we are all connected through Torah and holidays, even if specific parts of our histories differ.
- They can have a connection with God.