



Fill-in-the-Name Purim Megillah

Topic

Purim

Grade Level(s)

2nd-4th Grades

Goals for the Lesson/Activity

Students will

- Be able to recall the names of the people in the Purim narrative
- Be able to recall the roles of the people in the Purim narrative

Materials needed

- Copies of the Purim narrative
- Tape
- The following materials are needed depending on which activity you choose to do:
 - Name tags
 - Scissors
 - Markers, Crayons, etc.
 - Pens, Pencils

Background for Teachers

Reading *Megillat Esther* (the Scroll of Esther) is one of the four *mitzvot* associated with Purim. Each Jew is meant to hear the narrative of Queen Esther and Mordechai saving the Jewish People from the wicked machinations of Haman, King Ahasuerus' minister.

The names of the various people in the Purim narrative are particularly important. We try to drown out Haman's name by making lots of noise when his name is read. Esther's name can be understood to be an indication of God's presence even though God's name does not appear in *Megillat Esther* since אֶסְתֵּר can be read as a pun on the word הַסְתֵּר, meaning hiddenness (*Talmud Bavli*, Tractate *Chullin* 139b).

This lesson gives students the opportunity to recall the important figures in the Purim narrative and to review the roles that they played in the narrative's events.

Note: While there is no prohibition against Jews bowing to other people as a sign of respect, friendship, etc., a tradition has developed that Mordechai refused to bow to Haman because Jews bow down only to God. We have chosen to leave that interpretation as part of this story in order to emphasize God's presence in the Purim narrative even though God's name does not appear in *Megillat Esther*.



Fill-in-the-Name Purim Megillah

Prepare in Advance

- Decide which of the activities you will be doing.
- Print out the pages of the Purim narrative.
- Depending on which activity you choose:
 - Tape the pages together so that they form a scroll.
 - Cut up the name tags to be attached to the scroll.
 - Laminate the scroll and attach Velcro to the scroll and to the backs of the nametags.

Description of Activities

1. Use the completed scroll as a quick assessment to see which aspects of the Purim story might need review.
2. Assemble and hang up the scroll in the room along with a basket with all of the name tags available.
3. As students enter the room, let them begin reading and filling in the *Megillah*.

Make a Purim Carnival

- Use this activity at your Purim Carnival.
- Play “Beat the Clock.”
 - Fill in the *Megillah* with the correct names in less than 90 seconds and win a prize!
 - NOTE: We suggest that you laminate the scroll, attach Velcro to the blank spaces and the back of the name tags if you will be using it in a booth.

Differentiation Options

Knowing that students learn in a variety of ways and modalities, the following options are provided to adjust the above lesson to meet the unique needs of your learners.

For learners who need more assistance

- Read the Megillah with students and ask them to tell you which names to fill in.
- Ask students to illustrate who should be included in each blank space.

For learners who need extension opportunities

- Students may write the names in Hebrew directly onto the scroll.
- Ask students to sequence the story pages and tape the *Megillah* together for a younger class.

The text of the Purim Story was adapted from materials created by the B.J.E. Teacher Center, Rockville, MD.