



## **Hallel**

### **Topic**

Prayer (*Tefillah*), *Hallel*, praise, Hanukkah, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Shavuot, Pesach, Rosh Hodesh, Yom Haatzmaut

### **Grade Level**

Intermediate

### **Goals for the Lesson/Activity**

#### **Students be able to...**

- Identify when and why we say *Hallel*
- The ideas expressed in *Hallel*
- Apply their knowledge to compose their own poems of prayer/praise

### **Materials needed**

- *Siddurim*

Either provide students with the page numbers to find *Hallel* in your *siddur* (prayer book) or provide them with a range of pages in which to look for the prayer.

- *Hallel* acrostic sheet template for each student pair (available as a download on [www.Jteach.org](http://www.Jteach.org))
- Pens or pencils

### **Description of Activities**

This activity can be used as a whole class activity or as 1 of several self-guided stations. If you are using this as a station, provide students with the Student Guide (available as a download from [www.Jteach.org](http://www.Jteach.org))

### **Whole Class Activity**

#### *Background and Introduction*

A collection of psalms called *Hallel* (*meaning praise*) are recited during worship services on Hanukkah as well as Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Shavuot, Pesach, Rosh Hodesh, and Yom Haatzmaut. Further background on Hallel can be found on [MyJewishLearning](http://MyJewishLearning). For the full text and associated commentary, see what the Rabbinical Assembly [wrote](#). You may choose to summarize this information for students and/or use it to inform your introductory discussion on when and why we recite *Hallel*.

#### *Understanding and Application*

Ask students to find *Hallel* in the *siddur*. Read some or all of the Psalms that make up *Hallel* in Hebrew and/or English. Ask students to share how and why God is praised in



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this collection of psalms. On the template, students write their own poem of prayer/praise in the form of an acrostic using the word *Hallel* as a starting point.