



Reflections on Religious Freedom

Topic

Hanukkah, Maccabees, Religious Freedom

Grade Level

4th-8th

Goals for the Lesson/Activity

Students will gain familiarity with...

- The concept of religious freedom, one of the major themes of the Hanukkah story

Materials needed (if doing a paper collage)

- Construction paper, white
- Construction paper, various colors
- Markers and/or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks

Technology needed (if doing a digital collage)

- iPad, iPhone, Android tablet or phone preloaded with **PicCollage**
PicCollage is available for iPad, iPhone, and Android-based devices through the App Store or Google Play (free)

Tech Tips (Or, “What to do with 1 device and 15 students...”)

- **PicCollage:** After opening the app, tap the screen to start a new collage. Tap anywhere to get started adding photos and text. Be sure to tap the gray arrow at the top of the screen when done to save your PicCollage. Use one tap to add an object. Two fingers can resize an object. One finger can “tap and drag” to move an object on the screen.
- Planning for iPads or other devices:
 - Ask parents to come in as volunteers and bring in their device to share with the students. Parents can oversee the station where their device will be used.
 - Have pairs of students work together so that four students share a device instead of just two. Enforce the “Type one, pass it on” rule so that each student gets the opportunity to enter information on the device and sharing is regulated.



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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) with the collage option you are not using crossed out.

Whole Class Activity

Introduce

Ask students to imagine that before they go to lunch, the teacher tells them that today they can only sit with the people that the teacher chooses. No one is allowed to pick who to sit with or near. The teacher has taken away your **freedom of choice** to pick your friends.

Discuss

How would not having the freedom to choose your friends make you feel? Is this fair or unfair? How would you respond to your teacher?

Analyze

When the Jews were told they could not practice Judaism they were denied religious freedom. **Religious freedom** is the right **to choose** to believe, to practice, to worship, or to celebrate the religion of your choice in public or in private.

How would your life be different if you did NOT have the freedom to choose to celebrate the Jewish holidays?

Create

Ask students (working individually or in small groups) to create a collage of words and pictures that represents what religious freedom means to them. This project can be done in 2 ways:

1. Use **PicCollage** to create your collage of words and pictures, OR
2. Create a collage out of pictures and text with a variety of **art materials**.

If there is time, ask students to write a poem (does not have to rhyme) that tells why they chose the images and words that they put in their collage.