# The Tu B'Shevat Poetree

## Grade Level(s)
Elementary, Intermediate

## Goals for the Lesson/Activity
**Students will…**
- Understand the beauty and benefit of trees
- Apply their understandings through a variety of poetry
- Create an installation to share their work either in the synagogue or as a service learning project at a local retirement facility or children's' hospital

## Materials Needed
Paper

Pencils, pens, markers, crayons

Copies of the *Poetree Guide*

Large tree shape cut out of poster board, preferably laminated

Large leaves (from provided template or die cuts), at least one per student

## Websites
Tu B'Shevat Blendspace

https://www.blendspace.com/lessons/GViL2NgllbROeg/jteach-org-tu-b-shevat

goqr.me

## Technology Needed
Tablet or computer

Screen

Projector

Internet access

ScreenChomp; free, available for iPad

http://www.techsmith.com/screenchomp.html

Popplet (optional); free for one, $4.99 for unlimited use, available for iPhone and iPad

http://popplet.com

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## Description of Activities

Use the videos in the Tu B'Shevat *Blendspace* about trees, *Tikkun Olam* and ecology to encourage students to think broadly about the benefits and beauty of trees. Create a word bank by asking students to brainstorm (on paper or in Popplet) everything that the students recall from the videos or their background knowledge on trees. Brainstorming can be done as a whole class or in *hevruta*. Students will use the word bank to help them write one or more poems about trees in honor of Tu B'Shevat. Students write their final poem on the leaf template/die cut.

Using ScreenChomp, students can record themselves reading their poem with a picture (found or drawn by them) as the background. Share their recording via a link. Use the shared link to create a QR code on goqr.me. The QR code can be downloaded and attached to the print version of the student's poem. See the sample provided.

## Display and presentation

Use student leaves and the large tree cut out to create your Poetree. The installation can be done in the synagogue lobby or school hallway. If you'd like to brighten the day of those outside your school, find a local assisted living facility or the wing of a children's hospital that allows project displays to be the home for your Poetree.

## Differentiation Options

### For learners who need more assistance

- Students can work in *hevruta* (partners) to write their poems. The partner could be another student or a *madrich(a)*, classroom assistant.
- Encourage use of the word bank. Students can create "found" poems by combining words that they find in the word bank.

### For learners who need extension opportunities

- Have students read and explore *The Top 10 Most Amazing Trees in Israel* (http://www.israel21c.org/travel/the-top-10-most-amazing-trees-in-israel/); students can then do one or more of the following:
    - Locate where these trees grow on a map of Israel
    - Research one of the trees mentioned specifically in the article and write a poem about that tree, emphasizing its unique characteristics and age
    - Create a display to show the class that highlights favorite facts from the article

# The Tu B'Shevat Poetree

Fragrant fruits

Israeli grown

Good fresh or dried

Sweet to eat