



# Upcycled Clothing Israeli Flag

## Topic

Israel; Yom HaAtzmaut

## Grade Level(s)

All

## Goals for the Lesson/Activity

### Students will:

- Be able to recognize an Israeli flag
- Understand the ideas that the Israeli flag symbolizes
- Make a personal connection with Israel through the creation of a communal representation of the Israeli flag

## Materials needed

- Large size Israeli flag or a picture of it
- Used blue and white T-shirts (ask children to bring in items from home a week in advance)
- 6' x 9' canvas drop cloth (inexpensive at hardware store) or a large queen size flat sheet
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks, or white glue
- Permanent markers

## Background for Teachers

The Israeli flag is comprised of a blue Star of David centered between two blue stripes on a white background. The flag was designed by David Wolffsohn for the first Zionist Congress in Basel in 1897. When the State of Israel was established in 1948, it became the national flag of Israel.

The Israeli flag expresses Jewish unity as informed by the Torah. The blue stripes on white background refer to the *tallit*, the Jewish prayer shawl that often has stripes and a *t'chelet* (blue) fringe.

The Magen David (Star of David) is a six-pointed star made out of two interlocking equilateral triangles. It is believed to have adorned King David's shield as a sign of protection, and became the symbol of Judaism during modern times.



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## Description of Activities

Learn about the Israeli flag:

- Show a flag. If you can, wear a large size flag around your shoulders, and ask: What does this remind you of? (*Tallit*)
- Ask children to describe the Israeli flag.
- Ask children to share what they know about Magen David / Star of David / Jewish star.
- Tell children how and why the design for the Israeli flag was selected.
- Ask children to describe how the design of the Israeli flag helps them see Israel as their homeland.
- Invite children to share their thoughts and feelings toward Israel and toward being Jewish.

Create a large collaged Israeli flag:

- Place a large canvas on the floor with enough access to walk all around it.
- Draw the outlines of the flag on the fabric.
- Ask each child to cut a piece from a shirt and write a short message on it using permanent markers. The message can be a word, a sentence, or an image (such as a peace sign / heart / *Magen David*) that reflects their relationship to Israel.
- Help children attach their pieces to the background material with white glue. Repeat until the entire surface is covered with fabric pieces. Allow the glue to completely dry before moving the flag.

Another option: Use a hot glue gun to attach pieces for children.

## 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***

Instead of writing messages on their fabric pieces, children can draw an image, sign their names or cut and attach fabric pieces to make blue and white areas.

### ***For learners who need extension opportunities***

Children can explore related topics such as: the story of the design of the Israeli flag, or the origin and history of the *Magen David* and share their learning through the creation of a PowerPoint or a brief iMovie.



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