Jews Around the World

**Program Type:** Peulot Erev

**Approximate Duration of the Program:** One Hour

**One-Line Description:** Learn new jewish traditions from around the world

**Overall Goals/Themes:** Have the campers learn at least one jewish tradition that they didn’t know before this peulah

**Methods Used:** Judaism, World Judaism, Food

**Supplies/Resources Needed:** Jelly Donuts, a plate, a boiled egg, matzah, graham crackers, frosting, candy

**Ideal Location and Room Setup:** Two groups in the Beit Knesset, One group in each Ivrit classroom (Total two groups), One group in the beit midrash classroom

**Tzevet Preparation and Roles:** Review

**Instructions**:

1. Tell the chanichim their group and assigned location in the chadar
2. Tzevet with bring the group to their assigned location and gather all the campers together
3. Tzevet will lead their group through the five activities (in any order)
4. First they will read the description, and then they will play the game
5. One frosting will go to the BK, One frosting to the Ivrit classroom, and one in the bet midrash

**Activities:**

*Activity One - India*

Leader: This is a description written by an Indian Jew describing an Indian custom on Rosh Hashanah: “The celebration begins with the lighting of oil lamps and recitation of the b’racha before sundown. We hold New Year seders two nights, attended by close family and Jewish friends; in my case, around 25 people. The elders explain the significance of the seder components—fish, lamb’s head, apple and honey, “beet root, pumpkin, cluster beans, fresh garlic with leaves, pomegranate, Kiddush wine, challah (two flat chapattis, roasted crisp), dates (Ha’etz), and bananas (Ha’adama). Before starting the service on the first night at home, we distribute the special Rosh Hashanah halwa. We have a hearty meal together, consisting of jeera rice, chicken or mutton curry, potatoes, kofta (meatball) curry, potato patties (stuffed with mince), and salads. We attend synagogue services starting at 7 am, most importantly to hear the Shofar, and then go home to do the Kiddush and Hamotsi, eat and rest a little. At about 5:30 pm, we attend tashlich prayers near the sea where we would meet a lot of friends and family who go to other synagogues in Mumbai; this is a popular time for matchmaking and introducing young boys and girls. We then rush home for the second evening seder with our family.”

Questions:

1. What do you think of the traditions in India?
2. How do they compare and contrast from the things we do at Camp Ramah in New England?
3. Does anyone have some unique family traditions that you practice on Rosh Hashanah?”

Game: In India, Rosh Hashanah is a popular time for matchmaking. Have the group split into groups of 2-3. They will spend a few minutes coming up with the best, 15 second dance you can make. Then, they will perform their dance.

*Activity Two - Morocco*

Leader: Food is at the center of almost Jewish Holidays. Brisket, kugel, matzah ball soup, and most importantly, jelly filled donuts. Most of us get them from Dunkin Donuts, Krispy Kreme, or maybe Aunt Annies. But Moroccan Sfenj donuts are a type worth learning about. Jews in Morocco celebrate Hanukkah by enjoying fried jelly donuts. But their version, called Sfenj, is made with the juice and zest of an orange. This might have been reinforced because the Jaffa oranges came into season as the holiday approached.

Questions:

1. What do you think of this recipe?
2. Are your family recipes for common Jewish foods different than the recipes of family friends or neighbors?
3. What unique foods does your family eat?

Game: Eating for jelly munchkins. The chanichim will feed each other jelly donuts.

*Activity Three - Syria*

Leader: In the Syrian community, the custom of breaking the middle matzah on the seder table for Passover into pieces (known as yachatz) can sometimes take on Kabbalistic meaning. Matzah broken into the shape of the Hebrew letters “daled” and “vav” correspond to numbers, which in turn add up to 10, representing the 10 holy emanations of God. Jews from North Africa, including from Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Libya, break the matzoh into the shape of the Hebrew letter “hey,” which corresponds to the number five.

Questions:

1. What do you think the tradition?
2. What traditions do you take part in? What community traditions do you partake in?
3. What family traditions can you partake in?

Game: Have the leader give each person a few pieces of matzah. Then, give the chanichim about five minutes to break the matzah in a way that has a significant meaning to them, like a number or letter. Anything that is appropriate and has a meaning. If no matzah, use some graham crackers

*Activity Four - Spain*

Leader**:** In a custom that began in Spain in the fourteenth century, the seder leader walks around the table three times with the seder plate in hand, tapping it on the head of each guest. Many Moroccan, Turkish, and Tunisian Jews adopted this tradition for Passover, which is said to bless those whose heads are tapped. This is sometimes connected to the Talmudic custom of “uprooting” the seder plate so that guests might ask questions about the Jews in Egypt.

Questions:

1. What are your passover traditions?
2. Do they differ from the Spanish tradition?
3. Do they differ from those of your friends and other family members?

Game**:** Have the chanichim get in a circle, and play duck duck goose by tapping people's heads with the plate

*Activity Five - Greece*

Leader: Purim is associated with dressing up in outfits, going to parties, and having the best time as possible. But parties require food! And everyone knows the best part about party food is the cake. In Salonika, a city in Greece, "Haman-shaped" cakes were baked on the eve of "Shabbat Zachor", and placed on the window ledges until the festive Purim meal. During the meal, the cakes were sliced so that participants could fulfill the precept "And they shall devour Haman with open mouth.

Questions:

1. Has anyone ever heard of eating human cakes at a party?
2. Does your community, possibly synagogue or family, has any unique traditions for Purim?

Game: Show each group their materials (Graham Crackers, frosting, candy etc…) and give the group five minutes to make the best human shaped cake they can.

Wrap Up Activity

Questions

1. What do you think of the traditions from the other countries?
2. Which traditions do you think are the most interesting?
3. Which traditions do you think have the most similarities with the traditions you usually practice?

**Timeline:**

8:15-8:20 Travel to the assigned location and get the group quiet

8:20-8:30 Activity One

8:30-8:40 Activity Two

8:40-8:50 Activity Three

8:50-9:00 Activity Four

9:00-9:10 Activity Five

9:10-9:15 Wrap Up Activity