

Peulat Shabbat Re'eh: Israel

Program Planners: Elena, Will, TBT (The God Squad Va'ad)

Program Type: Peulat Shabbat

Date: 8/15 @5:45

Approximate Duration: 45 minutes

Ideal Location: B-side tennis courts

Description: We begin with a skit featuring TBT, Will, and Elena in an imaginary Delorean, accelerating to 88mph, activating the flux capacitor and travelling back in time to 1948 at the establishment of the State of Israel. From there we go linearly through time (as per usual) and hit a few 'highlights' of Israel's modern history. All chanchis will be excited and informed. Then we split them into groups. Each group does the Israel cartoon activity (explained below) and moves easily, breezily, beautifully, Covergirl, into a discussion about Israel and Zionism.

Supplies needed: Israel cartoon pix for every group, poster and event cards for timeline, wheel of Delorean

Sikkum: Walk away with a beginning base of information about Israel - its history and current issues. They should also now have started thinking about their own opinions on the issues, etc.

P.S. They should also watch Back to the Future regardless of whether or not they've already seen it, because it is a truly fantastic film ripe with reference-able jokes and one-liners.

Exhibit A ↓

Skit: Timeline

TBT: Woah Will, that's such a cool car!

Will: Thanks. It's a Delorean.

Elena: Can we take a ride in your fresh whip?

Will: Sure! I just need 1.21 jigawatts to get going.

\*All three get in car\*

Elena: Where are we going?

Will: The question isn't where we're going, it's when we're going! Once this baby hits 88 miles per hour, you're gonna see some serious sparks.

\*Will revs the car, and the three Instigators of Fun (hereafter referred to as IoFs) run in sync, spin around, and then act disoriented\*

TBT: When are we?

Will: We're in Israel in 1948. Yesterday, the state of Israel was proclaimed. Today, five Arab nations - Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon - have invaded Israel. Eventually, Israel will win the war, but for now things are a little bit crazy.

Elena: We should get out of here.

\*IoFs pin the event & get back in car, same schtick\*

TBT: Look over there! There are Israeli soldiers praying at the Kotel!

Elena: We must be in Jerusalem in 1967, right after the Six Day War.

Will: Oh yeah. Egypt mobilized forces along its border with Israel, so Israel attacked first and destroyed the Egyptian Air Force.

Elena: In this war, Israel claimed the Golan Heights from Syria, the West Bank from Jordan, and Gaza and all of the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt. Israel would eventually give back the Sinai Peninsula in exchange for peace with Egypt, but even today Israel occupies Gaza and the West Bank.

TBT: Whoa, this is heavy.

Will: We should go, we still have to travel 48 years into the future to get back to the present.

\*IoFs get back in car, same schtick\*

Will: Watch out! Those people are throwing stones at the soldiers of the Israeli Defense Force!

TBT: It looks like we're in 1987, at the beginning of the First Intifada. Palestinians are uprising against Israeli occupation of their territory. A lot of them are boycotting Israeli products, but some of them are getting violent, and the IDF is gonna retaliate.

Elena: The First Intifada won't fully end until Israel and the PLO sign the Oslo Accords in 1993, where both recognize each other as negotiators in the conflict. We can't wait that long! We have to get back to the future.

\*IoFs load up car, continue on their quest\*

TBT: Look, it's Yitzchak Rabin!

Elena: We must be at a rally after the signing of the Oslo Accords!

Will: Oh no... Guys, I think this is the night that Yitzchak Rabin was assassinated.

TBT: What?! Why would someone do that?

Will: Rabin was negotiating an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank in exchange for peace. Right wing Israelis thought Rabin was a heretic, and a religious man shot him to prevent him from giving up occupied land.

Elena: Wow. Especially after the treaty between Jordan and Israel in 1994, it really looked like there might finally be peace for Israel.

Will: We should go.

\*IoFs load up the whip and roll out\*

TBT: We're back to the future!

Will: Not quite. The dash says it's 2014.

Elena: It's last summer.

TBT: Wowza! Did you see that? A rocket just exploded in the sky!

Elena: It's the Iron Dome - this must be Operation Protective Edge.

Will: What's that?

Elena: Well, the Iron Dome is a mobile defense system that intercepts and destroys incoming rockets and artillery shells. Protective Edge was when Israel launched a military operation into Gaza to stop rocket fire and to destroy the tunnels that Hamas built connecting Gaza to Israel.

TBT: I remember that. There were seven weeks of ground-fighting and bombardment on both sides before a ceasefire was reached. I was in Israel when this was happening.

Will: I think it's time we head back. I don't want the flux capacitor to run out of power and leave us stuck in the middle of the Middle East conflict.

\*IoFs return to present\*

Elena: Wow... that was a crazy trip. Israel's history is a lot more complicated than I realized.

TBT: Riverside! Get the the left of the road!

Will: Roads? Where we're going, we don't need roads.

~Fin~

### Israel Cartoon Activity

Each group will get 10 pictures. Group leaders should spread the pictures out in the middle of the circle of chanchis. Tell the youngens to look around at every picture and pick which one they think is the most accurate representation of Israel. They should not touch / pick up the pictures, just look and choose. Then go around in a circle and every one of the whippersnappers should explain which picture they picked and why - it's ok if multiple kids pick the same one, it actually makes the discussion a bit more interesting because they will interpret even the same picture differently.

## Discussion Questions

Which picture do you think is the most accurate representation of Israel? Why?

Which picture represents how the world sees Israel?

Why might different people perceive Israel differently? Did the skit at the beginning or the answers your friends gave shift the way you perceive Israel? How so?

Segue into Zionism discussion

## Definitions of Zionism

Have kids pass around paper and let each chanchi read one definition of the state of Israel

(definitions on next page)

## Definitions of Zionism

To support the existence of Israel as a Jewish State

A love of Israel

To defend Israel against its enemies, internally and abroad

To upbuild the State of Israel as a progressive, egalitarian, cooperative society

To upbuild the State of Israel, at peace with its neighbors; actively involved in a peace process with the Palestinian people with the common goal of a just and lasting peace.

The right of the Jewish people to self-determination

The movement for the re-establishment, development, and protection of a Jewish nation in the ancestral homeland of the Jews, today called Israel.

The up-building of a renewed Jewish culture

Acknowledging the ways that Jews around the world are implicated in the actions of Israel and Israelis

The opinion that the Zionist project was completed in 1948 and that Jews around the world should find a new focus

The belief that God promised the land of Israel to the chosen people, the Jews

An endless ideal and a constant revolution

There is no one standardized definition of Zionism; people define the term in different ways. We need to understand and recognize that before engaging in a conversation about Zionism.

## Discussion Questions

What does Zionism mean to you?

How do you think the world defines Zionism? How does the media? In what ways do these meanings compliment or contrast your own?

How does a two-state solution - a deal in which Israel keeps some land and Palestinians get some land to create their own nation that they govern themselves - tie into your understanding of Zionism?

(leave this sort of open, if they run with it great, if not, talk about personal connections to / feelings about Israel)

## Groups

Group 1 - Eve, Julian,  
Ruby

Ben F

Group 3 - Will and Gefen

Dalia L

Group 5 - Reut, Eli, Dulce

Gilad G

Yael S

Harrison S

Jackie S

Marc W

Josh W

Simon M

Adeena B-S

Nathan M

Tova G

Gabe P

Elise B

Nadav B

Jeremy L

Sarah F

Peri L

Kyla C

Eliana G

Tali K

Adi G

Deborah W

Leah F

Gabe S

Micah M

Caleb H

Ariella L

Ariel S

Ethan W

Sophie S

Group 6 - Taylor, Claire,

Group 2 - Elena, Koby,  
Jess

Group 4 - Tova, Saul,  
Matan

Alan

Maayan H

Sadie R

Shelby S

Avi S

Naomi V

Yael N

Talia C

Josh L

Micah L

Etan D

Anna B

Sophia J

Cece F

Jesse R

Yonatan H

Jake B

Kayla T

Daphne K

Alex H

Ben W

Hannah L

Rebecca B

Jonah W

Sari D

Liana R

Micah I

Rachel S