Romans vs. Israelites

Shoafim

Description:

The edah will be split up into two groups: Romans and Israelites. There will be about 20 Romans and about 60 Israelites. Everyone should be dressed in black and **wearing sneakers.** Romans will be distinguished by wearing a red armband and Israelites will be distinguished by a white armband.

The objective of the Israelites is to get a mark on their armband from each of the gates. **The hanichim will not be told the locations of the gates. They need to find them on their own.** If they already have a mark from each of the gates, they can double up and a second mark from each. They cannot get a second mark from a gate until they have found all seven. It goes the same if they do a third round – they cannot get a third mark from a gate until they have two from all of the gates. When an Israelite reaches a gate, they must first listen to a fact about that gate before they can get his/her mark. Multiple facts for each gate have been included incase people come to a gate a second time. The Israelites with the most marks on their band “win.” Regardless of how many marks they had, if they get captured, they marks no longer mean anything.

The objective of the Romans is to capture as many Israelites as they can. To capture an Israelite, they must tag them. The Israelite is then obligated to give their armband to the Roman. Each Roman should keep the armbands as they capture Israelites, as the Roman with the most armbands “wins.” If an Israelite is captured, they become a Roman. Once they relinquish their white armband, they should go to the mirpeset and get a red one, and subsequently try to capture the Israelites.

**The gates are safe houses. No one can be captured if they are at a gate.**  Romans must be at least 10 feet from a gate, and they cannot “baby guard.” Israelites cannot dilly dally at gates – once they have their mark, they should be on their way.

Goals:

* To learn about the 7 open Jerusalem gates
* To mix learning with a fun and active game

Materials:

* Red arm bands (streamers would probably work)
* White arm bands (streamers would probably work)
* One marker at each gate (each a different color)

Yaffo – **Sam** **Landes** – Location: Omanut porch

HaArayot – **Dvir** – Locaion: Rock wall

HeHadash – **Shula** – Location: Bunk 35  
Zion – **Aliza** **Layman** – Location: Solelim fire pit (in suburbs)

Demeshek – **Barak** – Location: Ampitheatre

HaPerachim – **Abigail** – Location: Flower bush welcome to Tzad Aleph sign

HaAshpot – **Sara** **Feldman** – Location: Dumpster near 34

Handing out red armbands to those who become Romans through capture – **Carmi** – Location: Mirpeset.

**Natie** and all available **mitzkoyim** going around Tzad Aleph making sure that everyone is staying within boundaries and being safe abiding by the rules, etc.

Facts:

Yaffo:

1. The modern Yaffo gateway is, in fact, a breach in the wall made in 1898 when [German Emperor Wilhelm II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_II,_German_Emperor) insisted on entering the city mounted on his white horse. Local legend said that Jerusalem would be ruled by a king who entered the city's gates on a white horse, so to satisfy the emperor's vanity and avoid the fate foretold by legend, a breach was made in the wall rather than allow him to ride through a gate.
2. In Arabic, the Yaffo Gate is called Bab el-Khalil, which means "Gate of the Friend.”
3. The Yaffo gate is the only one of the Old City gates positioned at a right angle to the wall. This could have been done as a defensive measure to slow down oncoming attackers, or to orient it in the direction of [Yaffo Road](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaffa_Road), from which pilgrims arrived at the end of their journey from the port of Yaffo.

HaArayot:

1. Sha’ar HaArayot means “Lion’s Gate” in English. Near the gate’s crest are four figures of [leopards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopard), often mistaken for [lions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lion), two on the left and two on the right.
2. Israeli paratroops from the 55th Paratroop Brigade came through Sha’ar HaArayot during the [Six-Day War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War) of 1967 and unfurled the [Israeli flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_flag) above the [Temple Mount](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_Mount).
3. The Lions' gate is located on the north-east walls of the old city of Jerusalem, leading to the Via Dolorosa.

HeHadash:

1. Sha’ar HeHadash means “New Gate” in English. It was built in 1889, much more recently than the other gates, to provide direct access between the [Christian Quarter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Quarter) and the new neighborhoods then going up outside the walls.
2. The New Gate was built at the highest point of the present wall, at 790 meters above sea level.
3. During the [1948 Arab-Israeli war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948_Arab-Israeli_war), [David Shaltiel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Shaltiel)'s [Etzioni Brigade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Etzioni_Brigade) (Hagana) failed to capture East Jerusalem from the local Arab defenders reinforced by a company of the [Arab Legion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Legion)'s 6th battalion during [Operation Kedem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Kedem). This occurred not because of Arab offensive action, which was restrained by orders of [John Bagot Glubb](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Bagot_Glubb), but because the Jewish demolition charge intended for the iron gate was detonated by a stray artillery shell that set the Arab wooden barricade in front of the New Gate on fire, halting the Stern Gang, Hagana and Irgun troops' advance just prior to the ceasefire announcement.

Zion:

1. The Zion Gate’s entrance is "L" shaped in order to increase the security of the gate.
2. The Zion Gate is located on the south-west western side of the old city. It is one of the gates that lead to the Jewish quarter.
3. The Zion gate has numerous bullet holes, a result of the Israeli assault in May 1948 during the independence war to help to break off the siege of the Jewish quarter. This is why this gate is also named the "wounded" gate.

Demeshek:

1. The Damascus Gate is the main entrance to the [Old City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem%27s_Old_City_and_its_Walls) of [Jerusalem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem). It is located in the wall on the city's northwest side where the highway leads out, in times past, to the capital of [Syria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria), [Damascus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascus); as such, its modern [English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language) name is the Damascus Gate.
2. In its current form, the Damascus gate was built in 1537 under the rule of [Suleiman the Magnificent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suleiman_the_Magnificent), the [Sultan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultan) of the [Ottoman Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire). Underneath, remains of a gate dating to the time of the Roman rule of [Hadrian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadrian) in the 2nd century CE have been discovered and excavated.
3. In contrast to the [Jaffa Gate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaffa_Gate), where stairs rise towards the gate, in the [Damascus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascus) Gate, the stairs descend towards the gate.

HaPerachim

1. Sha’ar HaPerachim, or “Flower Gate” in English likely got it’s name from the gate’s rose-like engravings on its façade and the fact that merchants sold flowers right by the gate.
2. At the time when [Suleiman the Magnificent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suleiman_the_Magnificent) built the wall surrounding Jerusalem, a small [wicket gate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wicket_gate) was situated in front of the current gate, which was rarely opened. By 1875, in order to provide a passageway to the neighborhoods that were beginning to develop north of the Old City, the Ottomans made a breach in the northern part of the structure and closed the original opening, creating Sha’ar HaPerachim.
3. During several subsequent excavation seasons, archaeologists of the [Israel Antiquities Authority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Antiquities_Authority) dug in the eastern area of Sha’ar HaPerachim. Nine archeological layers were discovered – covering from the [Iron Age](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_age) up through the Turkish period.

HaAshpot:

1. Sha’ar HaAshpot is the closest to the [Kotel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Wall). It was originally much smaller, but was enlarged in 1952, after the Old City came under [Jordanian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan) control in 1948.
2. After the capture of Sha’ar HaAshpot by Israel in 1967, architect Shlomo Aronson was commissioned to renovate this gate.
3. Directly behind the gate lies the entrance to the [Kotel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Wall) compound.