TEACHERS' GUIDE

LESSON PLAN BY
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"Ilan Ramon (1954–2003): Israel's First Astronaut"

SUPPLEMENT 3, PAGES 4–5

In this lesson students will learn about Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut, who tragically died with his crewmates aboard the space shuttle Columbia. Students will understand that Ramon felt it was his responsibility to be a role model and leader for the Jewish people, as well as a representative of Israel to the rest of the world. Students will create an advertisement campaign representing Israel to the world.

OBJECTIVES

- **Students will explore the role Ilan Ramon played in representing Israel to the world.**
- **Students will study Jewish texts about being a light unto the nations.**
- **Students will focus on promoting Israel to the world through an ad campaign.**

VOCABULARY

טַיַּס חָלָל	**astronaut**
חָלָל	**space**
מַנְהִיג	**leader**
דּוּגְמָה אִישִׁית	**role model**

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QUOTES & QUESTIONS

"Sir, I noticed that the launch is scheduled for July 18, 2002. We need to postpone that date."

Why did Ramon feel that the launch had to be postponed?

Do you agree with his decision? Explain.

"Ramon also brings several religious items with him into space to represent the Jewish people. These include a *mezuzah*, a *Kiddush* cup, a book of Psalms, and a small Torah scroll that survived the Holocaust."

Why do you think he chose those particular items?

What items would you bring to represent the Jewish people? Why?

"I believe...that we have in Israel the best people, with phenomenal abilities, and it takes only the right leadership to lead the people of Israel to reach the sky."

What do you think Ramon meant by "the right leadership?"

What does reaching the sky mean?

Was Ilan Ramon a good example of a leader who helped Israel reach the sky? Why or why not?

JOEL ISKOWITZ

ACTIVITY: ISRAEL IS THE REAL THING.

1. Begin the class by asking students to open to the article on page 4 in the BABAGANEWZ Israel@60 supplement, and ask them if they recognize the picture. What do they know about this person? Make a list of their answers on the board.

2. Read the article in BABAGANEWZ using the Quotes & Questions above to facilitate discussion. Ask the class the following questions after you have finished reading the article:

How did Ilan Ramon act as a face for Israel around the world?

Based on who he was, what he said, and how he acted, what aspects of Israel did he represent?

3. Divide students into pairs and give each one the Jewish texts below (available to print at babaganewz.com/teachers). Instruct them to study the texts and answer the questions together.

ISAIAH 42:6

I, God, in My grace, have summoned you, and I have grasped you by the hand. I created you, and appointed you a covenant people, a light of nations.

What do you think "a light of nations" means?

What does it mean for a people to be a light?

What should that light look like?

How does this relate to Israel today?

Do you think Israel is an effective light of nations?

***METZUDAT DAVID* ISAIAH 42:6**

"a light of nations"—To illuminate the eyes of all nations to know that God is the [one] God.

Metzudat David is explaining how he understands the term "a light of nations." Please explain what he meant in your own words.

Do you agree with his understanding? Why or why not?

4. Bring the class back together and have a class discussion on what it could mean for Israel to be a light of nations.

5. Tell your students to imagine that the Israeli government has asked your class to create an ad that will show the "real" Israel to the rest of the world. Divide your class into small groups and ask each group to create an advertisement for Israel that will be shown all over the world. The final presentation should be both a visual image and a slogan on poster-board or construction paper.

Each group should discuss:

How do you want to represent Israel in this campaign and why?

Whom do you want to represent Israel in this campaign and why?

(A handout with topic suggestions is available to print at babaganewz.com/teachers.)

Instruct each group that it will have 20 minutes to create its ad, and then bring the groups together to present their work. Each group should share its ad campaign with the rest of the class and explain why it thinks its ad represents the "real" Israel. Discuss with the class which ad was best and why.

If possible, create a panel of unbiased judges, such as another teacher, the principal, and the art teacher, and ask them to vote for the best advertisement. Use the ads as part of an Israel@60 display.

6. To extend the lesson, read the children's book about the history of the mini-Torah that Ilan Ramon took to space, *Keeping the Promise: A Torah's Journey* by Tami Lehman-Wilzig. Also, teach your class about the Jewish National Fund in Israel and, encourage your students to plant trees in Israel in memory of Ilan Ramon.

TURN THIS PAGE OVER FOR A LESSON ON "LET MY PEOPLE GO"