"HaTikva" LESSON PLAN

by David Micley

LESSON AT A GLANCE

In this lesson, the lyrics of *Hatikvah*, Israel's national anthem, as performed in an El Al commercial serve as a catalyst to discussion about "the hope" of the Jewish people and what home is all about. Through an arts and crafts project, students will express six aspects of what it means to be at home.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will read the lyrics of *Hatikvah* in Hebrew and English.
- Students will reflect on "the hope" of the Jewish people.
- Students will reflect on what home means to them.
- Students will complete a simple art project that expresses their take on what home means.

ACTIVITY: *Hatikvah* and Home

1. Read the lyrics.

Ask a volunteer to read the lyrics of *Hatikvah*, Israel's national anthem, in Hebrew, and another volunteer to read the English translation. Then ask students the following questions and discuss:

HATIKVAH	התקוה
As long as deep in the heart, The soul of a Jew yearns, And towards the East, An eye looks to Zion, Our hope is not yet lost, The hope of two thousand years, To be a free people in our land, The land of Zion and Jerusalem.	כָּל עוֹד בַּלֵּבָב פְּנִימָה נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמִיָּה, וּלְפַאֲתֵי מִזְרָח קָדִימָה עַיִן לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה, עוֹד לֹא אָבְדָה תִּקְוָתֵנוּ, הַתִּקְוָה בַּת שְׁנוֹת אַלְפַּיִם, לִהְיוֹת עַם חָפְשִׁי בְּאַרְצֵנוּ, אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם.

According to the song, what is "the hope" (or "*Hatikvah*")of the Jewish people?
Do you share that hope? Explain your answer.

2. What is home?

Show students the video at http://mediamidrash.behrmanhouse.com/watch.php?VID_ID=2olrBE5pyQ8. Ask students to pay close attention to what is said in the clip after the song is over. If any students can understand the speaker, ask them to translate if for the class. If not, translate if for them. The words mean:

"Our hope is to continue returning the Jewish people home, even in the next 60 years." Ask students to think about the following questions, but keep their answers private for now:

What does it mean to be at home?
Where is home?
What does home look like?
What are some necessary elements that describe home?
How can Israel be our home even while we live in America?
Why do you think the video shows different people singing *Hatikvah*? What does this say about who makes their home in Israel?
Do you think that this video is an appropriate TV ad for El Al, Israel's airline? Explain.

3. *Magen David* art project

Give each student a piece of blank paper and scissors. Ask students to draw a big *Magen David* shape on the paper, then cut it out. Instruct students to write in each corner triangle of the star a word or phrase that describes one aspect of what home means to them. There should be a total of 6 words or phrases, one for each corner triangle. When they have finished, students may share their work and their answers with the class.

Are there any ideas that more than one student chose? Why was this word or phrase a popular answer?

Finally, students may display their *Magen David* projects on a classroom wall or bulletin board to remind themselves what home is all about. End class by watching the El Al commercial again, this time with students standing for *Hatikvah* and singing along.