



**Ibex at the Ramon Crater**

## 31. Ibex at the Ramon Crater

The Negev is full of fascinating places. For example, the Ramon Crater is one of three spectacular craters in the Negev that were formed millions of years ago from huge cracks in the Earth's surface. Each crater is a deep valley with steep cliffs on all sides and one water drain. Cut deep into the Earth's crust, the sides of the craters look like rainbow-striped sand sculptures.

The Bible says that King David found refuge in the desert among “the rocks of the ibexes,” a type of wild mountain goat (1 Samuel 24:2). Even though it is a desert, the Negev is home to a variety of wildlife, such as ibexes and lizards. The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) was founded to help protect the Negev and other natural environments throughout the country. SPNI works with the government, teaches students, and organizes trips to help people in Israel learn about and preserve nature. *teva*. This organization's work fulfills the mitzvah of *bal tashhit*—“do not destroy.” This mitzvah teaches that it is our responsibility to avoid wasting or destroying nature's resources.

1. What plants and animals might you see in the Negev? Why?
2. Describe at least two ways you can perform the mitzvah of *bal tashhit*.

### Say It in Hebrew

nature

טֵבַע

the mitzvah

בַּל תִּשְׁחִית

“do not destroy”