

Rosh Hashanah



Overview

With the sweetness of apples dipped in honey and the wake-up call of the shofar, we welcome in the Jewish New Year of Rosh Hashanah.

Core Concept

On Rosh Hashanah, we celebrate the creation of the world and look forward to a sweet year.

Words to Know

Rosh Hashanah—Hebrew for “Head of the Year;” the Jewish New Year

Shofar—the ram’s horn that is blown on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Describe how we celebrate the birthday of the world.
- Explain that the sweetness of apples and honey helps us look forward to a sweet year.
- Talk with their families about their hopes for the coming year.

Teaching Opportunities

Page 1

Getting started: Invite the children to look at the photo. Ask: What is this girl doing? (*dipping an apple in honey*) Does honey taste salty, bitter, or sweet? (*sweet*) Ask children if they like foods that are sweet. Explain that we dip apples in honey to show that we wish for a sweet year. Ask: What do you think it means to have a sweet year? (*to have good, nice, fun things happen*) What “sweet” things have happened to you? (*made a new friend; got a present; Mom played with me*) What “sweet” things do you hope will happen this year? (*go on vacation; have a lot of playdates with my friends*)

Pages 2-3

We celebrate creation: Ask the children how they think the boy in the photo at the top of page 2 is feeling. (*happy; enjoying a beautiful day*) Tell the children the boy is enjoying God’s Creation—the whole world. Ask: What are some things in the world that you are happy about? Why? (*the sun, because it makes me warm; my family, because they take care of me; flowers, because they smell nice*) Write the children’s answers on pieces of paper, and invite the children to paint or draw pictures of their answers.



Pages 2-3
(continued)



We blow the shofar: Pass around a shofar and ask: What do you think this is? (*animal's horn; shofar*) Direct children to the photo of the woman blowing a shofar. Ask the children if they think it is hard or easy to blow a shofar. If possible, bring in several *shofarot* (plural of shofar). Allow children to try blowing them (clean the mouthpiece with rubbing alcohol before each child's turn). Ask children to describe the different sounds they each make. (*loud; funny; high or low; like a wild animal*)

We pray for a good new year: Ask: What are the symbols on these girls' shirts? (*heart; peace sign*) Is it a good year if there is lots of love and peace? Why? (*Yes, because everyone gets along; it makes us happy.*) Ask what the children look forward to doing next year, now that they are older. Make a list of answers. Save this list and review it again near the end of the year.



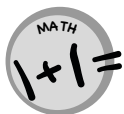
We send cards: Offer children a variety of materials with which to make New Year's cards, such as leaves, flowers, family photos, or pictures cut from old New Year's cards. Use different media, such as stamping with apples and paint, to foster the children's creativity. The card in the photo says *Shanah Tovah*, Hebrew for "Happy New Year." Have the children practice saying "Shanah Tovah" to each other.



Think about it: Ask the question in the blue oval on page 2. (*Shanah Tovah; Happy New Year; I love you*) Write children's answers, or their wishes for the coming year, in the New Year's cards that they make.



I can... Ask: What is the cat doing? (*eating apples and honey*) Encourage the children to pretend to be round apples by rolling or doing somersaults. Make sure your class has a chance to eat apples and honey!



Let's count: Ask the children to count the apples at the bottom of each page. Use real apples to represent the number of children in the class, or measure objects in the classroom with apples. For example, a table might be ten apples long.

Hallah: Ask the children: What shape is the hallah we eat on Shabbat? (*braided; oval*) Tell students that the hallah we eat on Rosh Hashanah is round like a crown. Ask: Who wears a crown? (*a king or queen*) Tell students that the round hallah reminds us that God is the Ruler of the world. Consider making hallah in your class. You can find a recipe by clicking on "Shabbat" at www.behrmanhouse.com/jam.

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Act it out: Encourage children to take turns acting out the experiences shown in the art. Send the folder home, and invite the children to act out the experiences with their families.

Family Talk: Read the question and ask children to draw their birthday wishes for the world. Invite the children to share their drawings and talk about their wishes with their families.