

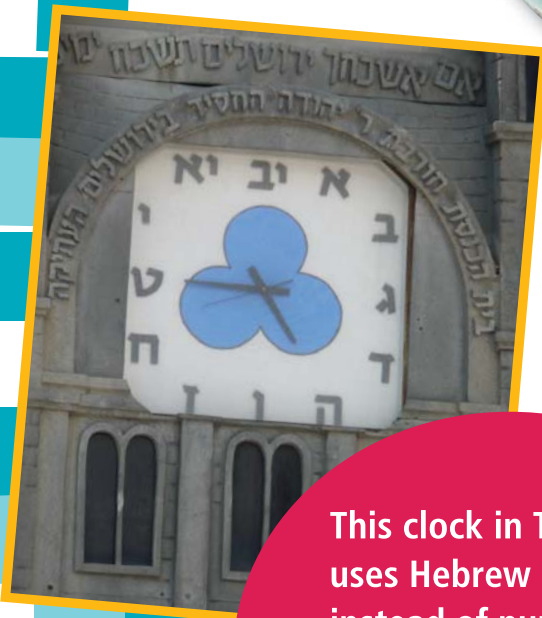
This is a Tu BiShevat fruit platter. The blessing over fruit is under the picture of the trees and fruit basket. What fruits would you like to serve on the platter?



“It’s strange that we celebrate Tu BiShevat in the middle of the winter,” Daniel said.

“But in Israel the winter rains have mostly stopped by the end of January or in February, the weather is warmer, and green buds have begun to appear,” his mom answered.

“I’d better v-mail Rivkah and go to ElijahRocks before I leave for school,” Daniel thought.



This clock in Tel Aviv uses Hebrew letters instead of numbers. Which letter do you think has the value of 5? Why do you think so?

Letters That Count

Each letter of the Hebrew alphabet stands for a number. For example, א (alef) = 1, ב (bet) = 2, and ג (gimmel) = 3.

ט (tet) = 9, and ו (vav) = 6. When the letters ט and ו are put together—ט"ו—they add up to 15 and make the sound Tu. That is how the holiday got its name.

As soon as Daniel and Rivkah arrived, Elijah appeared carrying a platter of figs, dates, pomegranates, apricots, almonds, sunflower seeds, and carob-covered raisins. “My Tu BiShevat seder starts in an hour,” he said.

“Everyone in my religious school donates money to plant trees in Israel,” said Daniel. “You can receive a certificate for the trees you plant that honor someone special to you. It’s a mitzvah to plant a tree.

“Since the 1970s, Tu BiShevat has become a holiday on which we not only celebrate the gifts of nature,” Daniel continued, “but also renew our commitment to care for the environment. We make efforts to use water and energy—like gasoline and electricity—wisely, to plant trees, and to recycle paper, glass, and metal.”



Trees can help athletes become strong by providing yummy fruits that are chock-full of vitamins and minerals. Who else can trees help? How?

How can recycling newspapers help care for the world? How can riding a bicycle help? What other pluses are there to riding a bicycle?