

Tu Bishvat Quiz

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When do we celebrate Tu B'Shvat ?

Correct Answer: **On the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shvat**

Additional Choices:

- On the 13th of the Hebrew month of Shvat
- On the 14th of the Hebrew month of Shvat
- On the 16th of the Hebrew month of Shvat

2. For what is Tu B'Shvat considered the Jewish New Year ?

Correct Answer: **Trees**

Additional Choices:

- Farm animals
- The giving of the Torah to Israel
- The lunar calendar

3. Which of the following is not a custom that people follow on Tu B'Shvat ?

Correct Answer: **Harvest the wheat from the fields in Israel**

Additional Choices:

- To eat a new fruit so that you can say the blessing for new events: "shehecheyanu"
- Plant a tree in Israel
- Eat the fruits of the Land of Israel

4. The Torah speaks of "A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey" (Devarim 8). Of which land is this referring to ?

Correct Answer: **The Land of Israel**

Additional Choices:

- All lands where Jews live
- All lands where God is worshipped
- The land near the Nile river in Egypt

5. Which fruit ripens the earliest ?

Correct Answer: **The "shekadiyah" (almond)**

Additional Choices:

- The "tapuz" (orange)
- The "tapuach" (apple)
- The "agass" (pear)

6. What is associated with both Chanukah and Tu B'Shvat ?

Correct Answer: **Olives**

Additional Choices:

- The Menorah
- Candles
- Defeating our enemies

7. According to Maimonides as well as all other halachic authorities what is forbidden to do to a fruit tree ?

Correct Answer: **Cut it down**

Additional Choices:

- Pick its fruit during the night
- Plant two trees within 50 meters of each other
- Pick the fruit off the tree before it is fully ripe

8. What does man resemble ?

Correct Answer: **A tree**

Additional Choices:

- A plant
- A vine
- A forest

9. Which of the following is a well known Tu B'Shvat Hebrew song ?

Correct Answer: **Hashkediah Porachat**

Additional Choices:

- Maoz Tzur
- Dayehnu
- Mishe Nichnas Adar

10. In Israel, what happens to trees starting on the 15th of Shvat ?

Correct Answer: **The new sap starts to rise in the trees**

Additional Choices:

- Trees die to make room for new ones
- Birds start building their spring nests in trees
- Trees are marked with red x's for cutting down

11. **How long is it from Tu B'Shvat to Purim ?**

Correct Answer: **1 month**

Additional Choices:

- 2 weeks
- 6 weeks
- 2 months

12. **What branch of a tree did the dove bring back after the flood ?**

Correct Answer: **An olive branch**

Additional Choices:

- An cedar branch
- A grape vine
- A cypress branch

13. **What modern tradition has developed for Jews outside of Israel who can not be in Israel to plant a tree ?**

Correct Answer: **They donate money to the Jewish National Fund for planting a tree in Israel**

Additional Choices:

- They plant a tree in their own back yard with seeds from Israel
- They build a treehouse made from wood from Israel
- They build a campfire, burn wood, and sing Hebrew songs all night

14. **Which of these fruits is considered a fruit of the ground ?**

Correct Answer: **tomatoes**

Additional Choices:

- cherries
- peaches
- grapefruit

15. **Which month of the Jewish calendar is Shvat ?**

Correct Answer: **11th**

Additional Choices:

-12th

-1st

-5th

16. **Which fruit is used to make wine ?**

Correct Answer: **grapes**

Additional Choices:

-olives

-dates

-lemons

17. **Which of the following Hebrew fruit names is also a woman's name ?**

Correct Answer: **Tamar**

Additional Choices:

-Tapuz

-Tapuach

-Zayit

18. **Which tree branches are on the Israeli country emblem (on both sides of the Menorah)?**

Correct Answer: **olive**

Additional Choices:

-date

-grapes

-pomengrates

19. **Which fruit is the leading exported fruit of Israel ?**

Correct Answer: **Oranges**

Additional Choices:

-Apples

-Grapefruits

-Grapes

1. **There is a Tu B'Shvat custom of eating jam or a similar delicacy made from a certain fruit. What is the fruit ?**

Correct Answer: **The Etrog (citron) used during Sukkot**

Additional Choices:

-The Rimon used during Rosh Hashana

-Oranges from Israel

-Grapes from Israel

2. How many glasses of wine are drunk at the Tu B'Shvat seder ?

Correct Answer: **4**

Additional Choices:

-1

-2

-3

3. When did Kabbalists originate the Tu B'shvat Seder ?

Correct Answer: **16th century**

Additional Choices:

-15th century

-17th century

-18th century

4. In what year was Tu B'Shvat established as the official Tree Planting Holiday in Israel by the Teacher's union ?

Correct Answer: **1908**

Additional Choices:

-1918

-1928

-1948

5. What other modern day event also happened on Tu B'Shvat ?

Correct Answer: **The Knesset, Israel's parliament, opened**

Additional Choices:

-The Jewish National Fund was established

-The first forest in Israel was planted

-The first seedless watermelon was developed in Israel

6. When did the first Tu B'shvat tree planting ceremony take place in the Yisud Hama'alah moshavah ?

Correct Answer: **1884**

Additional Choices:

-1854

-1908

-1918

7. There are three other "New Years" that define the Jewish calendar besides Tu B'Shvat. Each one occurs on the first of the month. Name the three Hebrew months ?

Correct Answer: **Nisan, Elul, Tishrei**

Additional Choices:

-Nisan, Elul, Adar

-Nisan, Sivan, Av

-Elul, Tishrei, Kislev

8. Why did our sages need to designate a specific date for judging when most fruit would be ripe ?

Correct Answer: **In connection with "Maasrot," tithing, or taking tenths (of fruit from trees)**

Additional Choices:

-In connection with cutting down trees

-In connection with planting new trees

-In connection with the building of kosher wooden homes

9. How many days does the Hebrew month of Shvat have ?

Correct Answer: **30**

Additional Choices:

-28

-29

-31

10. In the Torah, the Land of Israel is praised for seven special crops. Name the seven crops.

Correct Answer: **wheat, barley, grapes, figs, olives, dates, pomengrates**

Additional Choices:

-grapes, olives, dates, figs, apples, oranges, pears

-pears, grapes, olives, dates, wheat, peanuts, lemons

-lemons, grapefruit, olives, grapes, wheat, barley, dates

11. Since 1901, how many trees has the Jewish National Fund planted in Israel ?

Correct Answer: **Over 210 million trees**

Additional Choices:

-Over 180 million trees

-Over 120 million trees

-Over 100 million trees

12. A farmer may not harvest a tree during it's first years (this is called Orlah). How many years is this ?

Correct Answer: **3**

Additional Choices:

-1

-2

-6 months

13. Why is it a custom to eat bokser (carob fruit) on Tu B'Shvat ?

Correct Answer: **It takes 70 years to grow and people plant them for future generations**

Additional Choices:

-It is a commandment from the Torah

-It takes a short time to grow

-The nation of Israel ate this fruit in the desert before entering Israel

14. What does the white wine, the first glass in the Tu B'shvat seder, symbolize ?

Correct Answer: **Winter**

Additional Choices:

-A clean slate

-Daylight

-The first blossoms

15. Which trees grow very tall and insects do not like ?

Correct Answer: **Cedar**

Additional Choices:

-Lemon

-Olive

-Apple

16. Which of the following sayings is not from Proverbs ?

Correct Answer: **A man is like a tree of the field**

Additional Choices:

-A soothing tongue is a tree of life

-The fruit of the righteous is the tree of life

-but the righteous shall flourish like foliage

17. How many different kinds of fruit was it customary among East European Jews to eat on Tu B'Shvat ?

Correct Answer: **15**

Additional Choices:

-3

-5

-12

18. What is the most common tree found in the Jewish National Fund forests in Israel ?

Correct Answer: **Mediterranean Pine, Oren**

Additional Choices:

-Almond, Shaked

-Olive, Zait

-Cypress, Berosh

19. Beit Hillel and Beit Shamai were divided on the issue of the date on which plants awaken from their winter hibernation and start to feed on the rains of the new year. What date did Beit Shamai want the Jewish Arbor day to be ?

Correct Answer: **The 1st of Shvat**

Additional Choices:

-The 2nd of Shvat

-The 13th of Shvat

-The 18th of Shvat

20. There was a custom in Israel to plant a tree whenever a child was born (Babylonian Talmud, Gittin 57 p. 1). Which trees were planted for a boy and which for a girl ?

Correct Answer: **A Cedar tree for a boy, a Cypress tree for a girl**

Additional Choices:

-A Cypress tree for a boy, a Cedar tree for a girl

-An Oak tree for a boy, an Olive tree for a girl

-A Cedar tree for either boy or girl