

### **Sample Short Lesson Schedule, Yom Hazikaron**

We recommend sounding the siren file at 11:00 a.m. on Yom Hazikaron, April 28. This is the time that the official siren is sounded in Israel. It is very meaningful and symbolic to commemorate this in the same way. We understand that your curricula are demanding and this is not intended to replace your usual lesson. As in Israeli society, the Yom Hazikaron commemoration day is the time to reflect, with a sharp shift by the end of the day, announcing the beginning of the Independence Day celebrations, so this act of teaching and commemorating, and when conclude, returning to the previous activity.

#### **10:45 – 10:50**

Stop the usual class activity

#### **10:50 – 10:59**

Explain our connection to the Land and the People of Israel. While there are many wonderful things about Israel, the people still face enemies. The army defends Israel, and sometimes soldiers die in the fighting. Sometimes innocent people die in attacks. Each of these people helped to build the nation of Israel and Yom HaZikaron (literally, Memorial Day, make comparison to US) is the day to remember these heroes.

Explain unique nature of the 2-minute siren and how Israelis react during that time. (Show video so students see how the country “comes to a stand-still”)

#### **Some concepts to consider:**

- What do we think of when we hear a siren here? An emergency. Something important. Why does the whole country of Israel listen to a siren? What other sounds in Jewish life are used to convey something urgent and important? (Shofar.) Why not use a shofar on this day?
- When we hear a siren while driving we pull over to let an emergency vehicle pass by. Why do cars and trucks not only pull over, they stop! Why can't they drive and remember the heroes at the same time? When they pull over, are they letting something pass by?
- Two minutes of silence is a long time. What might people think about during that time? If there is an Israeli flag in the room, you may suggest that students look at the flag during that time.

#### **11:00 – 11:02**

Sound the siren. (note: most bullhorns also have a siren noise)

#### **11:02 – 11:10**

Distribute cards and stickers. Encourage students to wear the sticker and to explain to parents, friends. Ask students if any of them wish to share their thoughts.

**About the sticker**

The red everlasting flower sticker is a symbol for Yom HaZikaron – the Israeli Memorial Day – and is worn throughout the day. It is known as “Blood of the Maccabees” flower and its name comes from a legend that states that a drop of blood has been spilled on the Earth wherever a red everlasting grows.



**IMPORTANT:** Yom HaZikaron is a somber day, but it is also a trigger for Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day. Indeed, it is the sacrifice of those who fell who won and maintain Israel’s Independence as a Jewish State. Students should leave your classroom with a sweet and happy note.

**Some suggestions:** Blue and white cookies (ask your local bakery if they will bake it for you); ice cream with blue and white sprinkles; blue and white jelly beans, use your imagination. The point is that students should recognize Israel’s sacrifices, but feel positive about their connection to her.