

## Zionism today

Educational program

Osnate Exman

Goal: To have the kids define for themselves what Zionism means in their daily life.

We start by giving a random definition of Zionism from the net:

*Zionism-*

*A Jewish movement that arose, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, in response to, growing anti-Semitism and sought to reestablish a Jewish homeland in Palestine.*

*Modern Zionism is concerned with the support and development of state of Israel.*

In order to try and define this term we need to take it in small steps.

Have 6 volunteers read the six different characters-

- **Rachel**, 32 years old from NJ, a teacher at Hebrew/ Sunday school. She has 2 children: Amanda and Sean. They go to a public school and attend the services for Shabbat at a Reform congregation. Rachel and her family have never been to Israel, and due to “the security situation”, they are not planning to go.
- **Alon**, 20 years old from Tel-Aviv, an officer in a combat unit in the IDF. He is planning to travel to Central America when he finishes his service. He doesn’t know yet what he wants to study but he knows that he wants to go to MIT.
- **Jacob**, 40 years old from Washington D.C. He is highly involved in the Israel committee in the federation and also sits on the board of directors of the labor Zionist movement. He made Aliyah to Israel in the early 80’s and decided to come back to the states after a year because he felt he couldn’t achieve the same central positions in the community in Israel, as he could in Washington.
- **Gaya**, 25 years old from Mitspe Amirim (near Tzfat). She is a student in the anthropomorphic college and volunteering in an Arab village in the Galilee. She never celebrates any Jewish holidays and is highly involved in an organization that promotes civil marriages in Israel.
- **Ben**, 19 years old from Boston. He goes to MIT and plans to go for a semester to study at the Technion in Haifa. He is a youth Advisor in a congregation and lately has established a connection with the local student organization that supports the Palestinians. He considers volunteering in Ramalla after he finishes the semester at the Technion.
- **Moshe- Abraham**, 35 years old from Jerusalem. He studies all day in the Yeshiva. Has 7 children and didn’t serve in the IDF. He is one of the most dedicated volunteers of Zaka. (a volunteer organization that helps to properly bury victims of bombing terror attacks)

Within the individual discussion groups the students will need to decide which character they feel is the “largest” Zionist and which has the least Zionist “feelings”.

The smaller groups will present their ideas to the entire group.

Now that we have some idea what makes someone a Zionist, we can begin to analyze the deeds that one needs to perform to become a Zionist.

Within the smaller groups, they need to choose, from the list, the three most Zionist deeds. If there is one that does not appear on the list they can use it as well.

1. Teaching Hebrew
2. Learning Hebrew
3. Participating in services (Tfilot)
4. Donating money to Israel
5. Making Aliya
6. Buying Israeli products.
7. Being born in Israel
8. Listen to Israeli music
9. Reading news about Israel
10. Being involved in the Hillel at your college
11. Being involved in the politics in Israel
12. Giving your kids an Hebrew name
13. Living in the Gaza strip
14. Visiting Israel as a tourist
15. Creating connection with a group of non-Jewish people in Israel
16. Creating a connection with a group of Jews in Israel
17. Being a member of a Jewish youth movement
18. Studying for a semester in Israel
19. Serving in the IDF (Israel Defense Force)
20. Being a Shaliach (Emissary) of Israel
21. Knowing all the words of Ha'Ttikva
22. Living on a Kibbutz
23. Living in Jerusalem
24. Living in a Jewish community
25. Living in an anti-Semitic place
26. Wearing Magen David necklace
27. Wearing a Kipah with Israel and the USA flag
28. Supporting Israel's decisions in public, even if you don't agree with them.
29. Being friendly to any Israeli that come to your community
30. Being friendly to any Jew that come to your community
31. Saying the prayer for the peace of Israel
32. Saying the prayer for the soldiers of Tzahal (IDF)

The groups present their list.

All together discuss the different definitions that the kids wrote for Zionism, and decide what on a definition that everyone can agree on:

1. To consider Israel a part of yourself. To speak about it in terms of we or us. To consider Israel as much your country as home country if you do not live there.
2. Any form of support, advocacy and further development of the state of Israel.
3. The belief that Israel has the right to exist as a Jewish homeland.  
However- to be a Zionist, you have to actualize the belief and support of Israel by taking action. (i.e. IDF, being involved with Israeli politics, making aliyah, etc...)
4. A Jewish movement made in response to growing anti-Semitism.
5. Feeling a connection to Israel regardless of whether you are Jewish or not.

מהי ציונות? – אחד הילדים מקריא את ההגדרה.

לחלק אותם לקבוצות של שלושה/ארבעה.  
כל קבוצה מקבלת שש רצועות - כל רצועה סיפור של אדם שונה והם צריכים לסדר לפי האדם שמייצג את הכי הרבה עבורם את הציונות לאדם שמייצג הכי פחות.

לאחר מכן כל קבוצה מציגה את הדמות הכי ציונית.

**אני שואל שאלות כגון: למה בחרתם דמות זו ואיך היא מחברת אותך באופן אישי למושג ציונות?**

אם יש זמן להציג את הדמות הכי פחות ציונית.

כל תלמיד מקבל רשימה של 32 מעשים ציוניים. הם חוזרים להתדיין בקבוצות ומחליטים יחד מהם שלושת המעשים הכי ציוניים.  
אחד מכל קבוצה מציג את המעשה הכי ציוני.

אם יש זמן. כל ילד רושם את ההגדרה לדעתו של ציונות

או

מקריאים להם חמשת הגדרות שילדים מבית ספר יהודי בבולטימור כתבו והם יחליטו מה לדעתם ההגדרה המתאימה ביותר.

### **שאלות דיון לסיום:**

לשאל אם קיים דבר כזה יהודי חילוני?

התרומה של מדינת ישראל כמדינה יהודית ליהודים החילוניים:

\*האווירה היהודית מסביב.

\*החינוך היהודי בבתי הספר.

\*שימור העם היהודי.

\*נשואים יהודיים מכיוון שרוב מוחלט במדינה אנשים יהודיים.

מדינת ישראל לעם היהודי: \*לימוד סיפורי התורה כבסיס היסטורי של העם היהודי.

\*חגים יהודים כיום חופש לאומי.

\*שבת – יום חופש.

\*אווירה יהודית 24 שעות ביממה.

מדינת ישראל עבור היהודים בארה"ב:

\*שימור העם היהודי.  
\*המקום בו אפשר לחיות את החיים היהודיים בצורה הטובה ביותר בעולם. מאפשרת לכל יהודי באשר הוא לפתח ולשמר אורח חייו במדינה דמוקרטית.  
\*כל מרכז העולם היהודי נמצא בישראל: אוכל כשר, תרבות יהודית, שפה העברית כשפת לאום.  
\*המקום היחיד שבו אפשר לחיות כיהודי חילוני.

\*\*\*להקריין סרט של תוכניות לישראל לתיכוניםטים

\*\*\*לחלק דפי מידע בנושא ציונות המסבירים מדוע ציונות אינה גזענות.

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To consider Israel a part of yourself. To speak about it in terms of we or us. To consider Israel as much your country as home country if you do not live there.

Any form of support, advocacy and further development of the state of Israel.

The belief that Israel has the right to exist as a Jewish homeland.

However- to be a Zionist, you have to actualize the belief and support of Israel by taking action.

(i.e. IDF, being involved with Israeli politics, making aliyah, etc...)



A Jewish movement made in response to  
growing anti-Semitism

Feeling a connection to Israel regardless of whether you are Jewish or not.