

Curate & Create Poster Competition

The National Library of Israel is the prime institution of national memory – not only of the Israeli nation but of all Jewish people across the globe. Its mission is to serve as a home for the collections, archives, manuscripts, documents, maps, music, and other cultural treasures and preserve them for future generations.

We are so excited to partner with you to facilitate a journey through these treasures and engage the next generation. This learning experience will foster personal meaning and relevance and give students an opportunity to reflect on their connection to Judaism and Israel.

Here are some helpful recommendations and information to enable you to maximize our resources.

1. Overview: Poster competition and lesson plans

Our materials have been designed for implementation in a variety of ways. Consider the following 2 paths and then personalize the learning experience to best meet your needs.

Path 1: Participate in the competition as an isolated unit.

Path 2: Incorporate some or all of the lesson plans as an anchoring learning experience that culminates in (some or all of) your learners participating in the competition. Consider creating a school wide exhibit in honor of Yom Ha'atzmaut using some of the suggested creative activities found within each unit.

2. Lesson plans

Lesson Plan	1	2	3	4	5	6
Title	Thinking like an Historian	The Land of Milk and Honey	Uncovering the Personal Behind the Historical	It's All About Framing!	Traditions That Ring a Bell	A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words
Theme	Primary Sources Intro	Food and Farming	People Behind Pictures	Arts and Athletics	Community and Celebrations	State and Society
Skill	Observe and Analyze	Compare and Contrast	Empathize and Connect	Details and Deduction	Categorize and Match	Media and Messaging



In order to facilitate this learning experience, we have created lesson plans that focus on a variety of themes and skills. Each lesson plan demonstrates how to use primary sources to engage learners and promote inquisitive learning.

Note that each unit pairs specific skills and methodologies with a particular theme but any skill and methodology can be easily implemented for use with other themes and primary sources. Also, although the units are designed to be modular, we strongly recommend that you include Units 1 and 6: **Unit 1** serves as an introduction to learning with primary sources; **Unit 6** orients learners to the poster competition.

Each unit contains:

- A curated selection of primary sources centered around a theme
- Rich discussion questions
- Group activities for active learning
- Creative activities for reflection and synthesis

3. The collection of 75 primary sources

We have curated a rich and robust collection of 75 primary sources from the National Library of Israel to serve as the foundation for a meaningful learning process as well as inspiration for the poster design.

4. Learning with primary sources

Primary sources are first hand documents that are direct evidence from the past. In contrast to secondary sources that describe historical events, primary sources allow the time period to “speak for itself.” The use of primary sources as a window into the past fosters deeper understanding of history and enables learners to personalize and connect to earlier events.

At the National Library of Israel, we direct learners using the following four-step approach:

Step 1: Observe

- First impressions
- Sparking curiosity and interest (e.g., What message is being sent?)
- Paying attention to details (e.g., Did you see something unexpected?)

Step 2: Analyze

- Inquiring (e.g., Who was the target audience? What was the purpose of this source?)



- Organizing data (e.g., Does this source contradict or support what you already know?)
- Contextualizing (e.g., What was happening in the world when this source was created?)

Step 3: Connect

- Forming emotional bonds (e.g., What does the source make you feel?)
- Interacting/authentic engaging (e.g., What does the source make you think about?)
- Finding personal relevance (e.g., How does the source relate to you and your life?)

Step 4: Create

- Integrating the primary source into an essay or artistic presentation
- Interpreting and sharing your thoughts in a group discussion
- Contributing to the Jewish story

5. The Curate & Create Yom Ha'atzmaut Poster Competition

Stage 1: Reflect

Learners will engage with one of the following essential questions. This engagement will serve as an anchor for the creation of the poster.

Essential Questions:

- What role does Israel play in the Jewish world?
- What role does Israel play in my life? How does Israel shape my Jewish story?
- What values does or should Israel represent today? Have these values changed over the years?

Stage 2: Curate

Learners will browse our collection of [75 primary sources](#) and choose one or more that resonate with them and with the essential question that they are exploring.

Stage 3: Create

Learners will design a poster to commemorate 75 years of Israel that expresses their reflections on and connection to Israel. Explore [Design Poster Guide](#).

Stage 4: Submit

Learners will fill out [this form](#) by **April 26, 2023** (Yom Ha'atzmaut).



The entries will be evaluated by a judging committee made up of NLI staff and representatives from NLI's partner organizations.

[Click here to read rules and regulations](#)

The criteria for judging the posters are as follows:

Message/ Relevance to the theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conveys a clear message anchored in one (or more) of the essential questions.	3
Design/ Artistic composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Uses principles of design in the final product:Shape and formColorEmphasisCompositionMovementUnity	2
Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engages viewers and piques curiosityExhibits a unique and creative approach to the chosen theme.	2
Artist statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Includes a Brief description and explanation of the major poster elements.Includes a Personal statement about how the message conveyed in the poster expresses your connection to IsraelDemonstrates how the National Library of Israel primary sources inspired the final product.	3
Total		10

Process:

- Submissions due: April 26, 2023
- Winners announced: May 25, 2023 (Shavuot eve)
- The winners will be featured on the NLI's social media platforms and website.
- Entries will be judged and rewarded according to age group and in two tracks (individual and group entries) as follows:

	Primary-Middle School (up to 6th grade)	Middle-High School (7th-12th grade)
Individual Prize	\$750 towards a ticket to Israel	\$750 towards a ticket to Israel
Class/Group Prize	\$750 towards a group or school-wide activity about Israel	\$750 towards a group or school-wide activity about Israel

6. Suggested timeline for educators to facilitate a meaningful learning process

Below you will find a suggestion on how to organize your time leading up to the poster submission on Yom Ha'atzmaut, including use of the lesson plans that can enrich the process and turn it into an ongoing, deep, engaging learning experience.

Month	Competition preparation	Lesson plans
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce the competition; learn about the rules and requirements Frame the competition around the essential questions and discuss them in class Team up with art teacher to support the learners 	Lesson Plan 1
January - February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help learners choose their essential question Give learners authentic opportunity to explore the primary sources and brainstorm 	Lesson Plans 2-5
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brainstorm basic vision of a poster that incorporates your message Imagine the graphics by exploring examples of graphic design, use of color and images, etc. Put it all together Rough drafts due (internal to schools) 	Lesson Plan 6
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create the final poster Work on filling out the form, paying attention to all rubrics and requirements Competition submissions due April 26th – Yom Ha'atzmaut 	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of winners 	



We at the National Library of Israel are here to support you in this initiative. Please reach out for support along the way: **Shuvi Hoffman, Global Jewish Education Manager**
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Helpful links to learn more about teaching with primary sources:

- [Getting Started with Primary Sources | Teachers | Programs | Library of Congress](#)
- [Teacher's Guide: Analyzing Primary Sources](#)
- [Primary Source Analysis Tool](#)
- [Top 10 Reasons for Using Primary Sources with K-12 Students](#)
- [The Question Formulation Technique and Primary Sources](#)
- [Understanding Perspective in Primary Sources](#)