

## FLAGS, FLAGS, FLAGS

For hundreds of years, Jewish communities have designed special flags to help involve children in Simchat Torah celebrations.

### CAN YOU CRACK THE CODE?

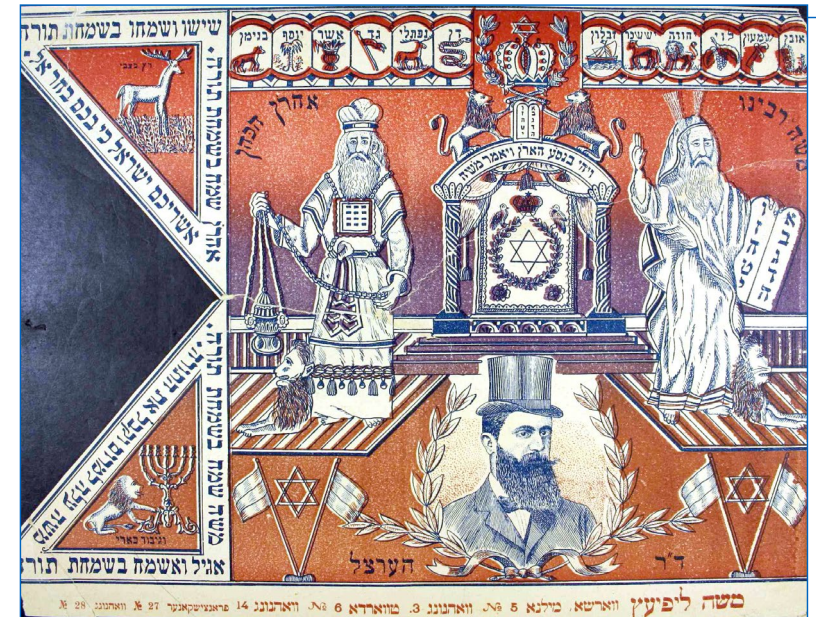
Look closely at both flags and count how many of each symbol appears. Then use the answers to decode the message!

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Stars of David <input type="checkbox"/>     | Menorah <input type="checkbox"/>          |
| People's Faces <input type="checkbox"/>     | Torah Scrolls <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| Branches of Leaves <input type="checkbox"/> | Ten Commandments <input type="checkbox"/> |

On Simchat Torah, we proudly hold the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ up high, and dance and sing with our family and friends. There is joy on (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ around their necks. This isn't the festival where we bring out the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ and it isn't the one where we celebrate receiving the (2) \_\_\_\_\_. But like the blossoming (8) \_\_\_\_\_, on Simchat Torah we celebrate growth and the cycle of life.

Ask your grandparents or other older relatives or friends whether they celebrated Simchat Torah as children. What were their customs? Did they carry flags? Did the children get treats?

Simchat Torah flag from Warsaw, 1902



Journey through the history of Simchat Torah flags →

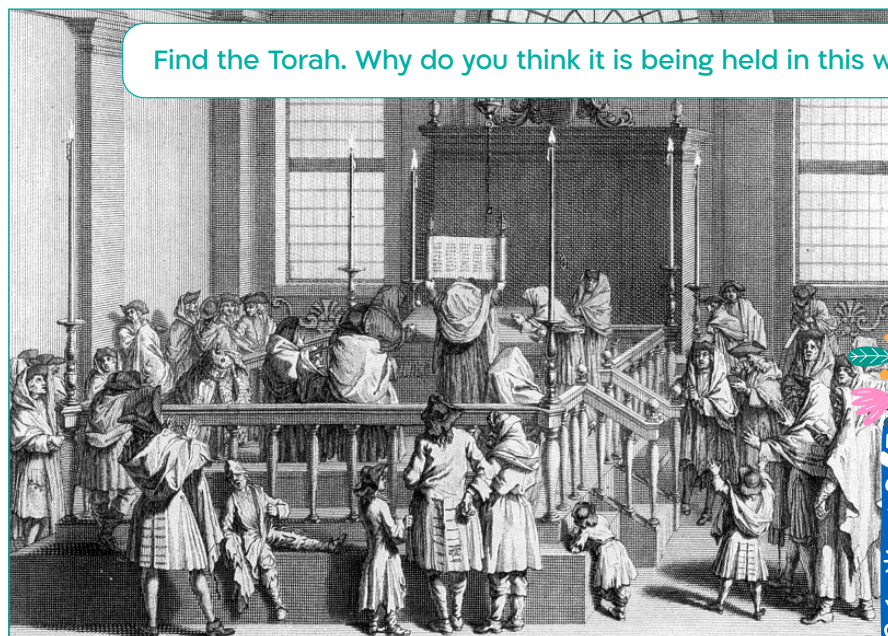


Simchat Torah Flag, 1967



## PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

Torah Scroll, The Hague, 1725



Find the Torah. Why do you think it is being held in this way?



Simchat Torah also celebrates restarting the Torah – the essential Jewish book, which has been a central source of Jewish identity for thousands of years. Follow the tradition of “the People of the Book” and reread some of your favorite books.

Simchat Torah celebrates the completion of the yearly Torah reading cycle. How do you feel when you complete a very big project? How do you like to celebrate it? Are you ready to do it again or to take on another large project?

### My Holy Ark

The Torah scroll is housed inside a special sacred ark called the aron hakodesh. What is sacred to you? Use this ark template to draw a selection of items you consider sacred. Decorate it in ways that make it extra special to you.

