A Shabbat Moment Worksheet

Introduction
Lighting the Shabbat candles, saying Kiddush, spending time with the family, and resting from the work of the week are all part of the Jewish Shabbat. Whether one observes Shabbat traditionally or not, this is a special day with unique activities. Throughout history, Shabbat traditions have differed between countries and times. This activity will allow you to compare and contrast a wide variety of artistic depictions of Jews around the world observing Shabbat during the 1800s and early 1900s.

In this activity you will choose a picture showing Shabbat traditions. You will then answer questions to learn about the picture. Finally, you will write about the scene in the picture and create a shared eBook with your classmates.

Primary sources
- Shabbat, Sweden – mid 1800s
- Shabbat scenes, Warsaw, 1903
- Shabbat afternoon, Frankfurt – late 1800s
- Happy New Year, Switzerland – 1910
- Havdalah – mid 1800s
- The beginning of Shabbat, Frankfurt – late 1800s
- Shabbat rest – mid to late 1800s
- Shabbat peace – mid to late 1800s
- Shabbat visit, Vienna, Austria – early 1900s
- Lighting Shabbat candles, France – 1903

Choose a Scene
Look through the collection of Shabbat pictures and choose one that you like. Explain briefly why you chose it.

Primary Source Analysis

1. Observing Figures
Who is in the picture? What are they doing? How are they dressed?
Background
What items are in the picture? Is the scene inside or outside? Are there objects in the picture?

___________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________

Activity
What is happening in the picture? Are the figures speaking? What might they be saying?

___________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________

Art
What medium did the artist use to create the picture? Charcoal, pencil, paint?

___________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________

2. Understanding
When and where was the picture designed?

What scene does it depict?

How did you come to these conclusions?

___________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Connecting
Why do you think the artist chose to capture this particular moment?

What was the situation of the Jewish community in this place at this time?

What elements are similar to Shabbat in your life and what are different?

Are there any unfamiliar objects in the picture? Try to find out what they are and what their purpose was.

Compare the picture you chose with another. Do the scenes depict the same thing?
How do the settings compare? Which picture do you like more?

___________________________________________________________________________________________

How did it go? Let us know! learning@nli.org.il
4. Creating

Creative Writing
Write a short scene dramatizing the moment in the picture you analyzed. Expand on any aspect of the picture, create dialogue, background, or conflict, or provide context for the action the people are performing.

Creating an eBook
Upload the text you wrote together with the picture you chose to the internet and create an eBook. We invite you to send your creations to us at learning@nli.org.il and we will upload the best on our website.