Create Your own Megillah!

At the heart of the Purim activities is the reading of the Megillah – the Book of Esther. The Megillah tells the dramatic story of the Jews of Shushan the capital of Persia who were saved from a massacre due the actions of the Jewish Queen Esther. The Megillah, that is written by a scribe on parchment, is often illustrated with traditional decorations and drawings of the events recounted in the book. The National Library of Israel has a unique collection of Megillot. One of the oldest of the NLI collection is from Ferrara in Italy and it was made in 1616. Other illustrated Megillot from our collection come from Venice, Prague, Berlin and Holland.

Activity Explore Online Megillot Choose one of the following online Megillot and look for others. Then fill in this table with information about the illustrations on the Megillot:

- Megillah - Venice, 1746 - [http://tinyurl.com/px43paZ](http://tinyurl.com/px43paZ)
- Prague Megillah - [http://tinyurl.com/h3spswW](http://tinyurl.com/h3spswW)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Origin and Date</th>
<th>Depiction of Scenes</th>
<th>Division of Text</th>
<th>Additional Text on the Megillah</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Venice 1746</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Prague</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Berlin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Dutch 18th century</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Ferrara 1616</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Create your own Megillah!
After exploring Megillot from the NLI collections and other sources, the time has come to create your own!

1. Choose a scene from the Purim story: for example, choosing the Queen, Mordechai parading on the King's horse, etc.
2. Create a page of the Megillah with online tools or arts and crafts.

Take the following things into consideration:
- What does a Megillah page look like?
- What text should be included? (You can copy the text from an online Megillah.)
- Where do the illustrations appear?
- What graphic features traditionally appear in Megillot?
- If you add scenes from the Purim story, what should the characters look like?
- Will you add images of the palace? What will that look like?

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