One day, he was walking on the road and saw a certain man [Honi] that was planting a carob tree. He said to him, 'How many years until this [tree] will be laden [with fruit]?' He said to him, 'Until seventy years.' He said to him, 'Is it obvious to you that you will live [another] seventy years?' He said to him, 'That man found the world with carob trees. In the same way as my fathers planted for me, I will also plant for my children.'

Answer the following questions:

1. Write the story in your own words.

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

2. Why does Honi ask the man?

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. What is his answer?

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

4. Why is it surprising that the man is planting a tree that will only provide fruit in 70 years?

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

5. What was the man's explanation to Honi?

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

6. Why did he plant this tree even though he will not be alive in 70 years time?

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

How did it go? Let us know! learning@nli.org.il
7. How is Raphael Stern, the man watering the tree on Kibbutz Ginegar, similar to the man that Honi met?

8. What does the Talmudic story tell us about the Jewish attitude toward the environment?

9. What can our generation do to ensure that the next generation can enjoy a green and beautiful Israel?