Exploring and Creating Shana Tova Cards

Have you ever received a Shana Tova card for the Jewish New Year? Nowadays it is less common to send cards or letters in the mail, especially Shana Tova cards; people usually greet their friends and family with text messages and emails.

But not so long ago it was customary to send cards to friends and family for Rosh Hashanah. These cards were often decorated with designs and pictures portraying the festivals of the month of Tishrei (the first month in the Jewish calendar) or other Jewish motifs. Sometimes, however, the cards showed completely different designs. Let’s explore some Shana Tova cards.

**Stage 1 – Searching for a Card**
First, look for a special Shana Tova card in the National Library collections.

**Stage 2 – Exploring the Card**
Complete this worksheet for the card you have chosen.

Attach the image of the card here!

1. Give the card a title.
   ______________________

2. When was the card published?
   ______________________

3. Where was the card published?
   ______________________

How did it go? Let us know learning@nli.org.il
4. What is the topic of the illustration? (Festival, Jewish tradition, Zionism, landscapes etc.)?

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5. Describe the illustration in detail. ________________________________

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6. Copy any texts that appear on the card. If they are in Hebrew, translate them.

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7. What elements on the card hint to the time or place where the card was printed?

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8. What interesting things can you learn about Jews of that time or place from the card?

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9. What questions come to mind from examining the card? How can you find the answers?

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Stage 3 – Create a Card of Your Own!
After completing the worksheet, look at the cards your friends examined.

Think about the different ways people decorated Shana Tova cards.

Plan a card of your own. Think about the illustrations and the texts you would like to include in the card.

Now you can create a card using paints, pens and pencils or an art app on the computer.

Shana Tova!