Life of Yitzhak Rabin

Framing this unit
This is a poster depicting the life of Yitzhak Rabin through a variety of photographs taken over the course of his life. The poster, printed after Rabin’s assassination, comprises 15 photographs, each depicting an aspect or event in his life. Below each photograph is a caption with a brief description.

The first photograph is a portrait of Rabin in his youth. The next shows him towards the end of the British Mandate together with his fellow Palmach fighters holding up a Magen David. The subsequent photographs show Rabin as IDF chief of staff, after leading the army into the Six-Day War victory. There are two photographs portraying Rabin’s personal life: playing tennis and spending time at the swimming pool with his grandchildren. Other photographs depict Rabin in his role as prime minister, visiting new immigrants from Ethiopia and the Former Soviet Union, meeting children from the Golan, lighting Chanukah candles in the city of Lod, and affixing a Mezuza in an official visit. On the bottom row are two photographs of Rabin’s great achievements: winning the Nobel Prize with Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat and signing the peace agreement with King Hussein of Jordan. The last photograph is of the “The Children of the Candles,” referring to the young people who lit memorial candles to mourn Rabin after his assassination.

Yitzhak Rabin served as IDF chief of staff and two terms as prime minister of Israel. On November 4, 1995, Rabin was assassinated by Yigal Amir, an extreme right-wing activist who opposed Rabin’s political ideology.

Group Activity
Now that you have learned more about Rabin:
• What do you think were his most important achievements? Why?
• Who do you consider to have been the greatest leaders of the State of Israel?
• What are your criteria?
• Which leaders of your country fit those criteria?
• Does your community commemorate Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Day? In what way?

Discussion
The poster depicts Yitzhak Rabin’s life and achievements.
• Who was Yitzhak Rabin?
• What roles did he hold?
• What were some of his greatest accomplishments, as depicted in the poster?
• How many years are represented on the poster?
• From when until when?
• How would you categorize the topics of the photographs?
• What aspects of Rabin’s life are represented?

How did it go? Let us know! learning@nli.org.il
In the title of the poster, next to his name, are the letters Ḥ’r – Z’L.
- What do the letters stand for?
  When are they used?
- How did Rabin die?
- Why do you think that the Ministry of Education published the poster?
- What was its goal?

**Creative Activity**
- Choose a different Israeli prime minister or Zionist leader and create a poster similar to the Rabin poster. Include photographs that represent all aspect of the leader's life.
  Write captions below the photographs.
  You could use canva.com to create your poster.
- Create a timeline of Yitzhak Rabin's life using the photographs on the poster.

**Primary sources in this lesson**
*Pictures of the Life of Yizhak Rabin, Z’L*