

Jewish Literacy Programme

Year 4 ~ Week 23

English Translation	חומש Words	English Translation	חומש Words
his wife	אִשְׁתּוֹ	east	מִזְרָח
together	יַחְדּוֹ	shepherd	רֹעֶה
dust	עָפָר	to give	לָתֵת

English Translation / Explanation

G.K. Words

From פסח to שבועות (1)

The Torah commands us to count 49 days from the bringing of the Omer offering. An Omer (a certain measurement) of barley was harvested on the second night of Pesach and brought as an offering in the Beis HaMikdash during the second day. The 50th night begins the holiday of Shavuot, the day Hashem gave us the Torah, and so **the entire counting period becomes one of growth and preparation** - from being a people of lowly slaves to a holy nation ready to receive the Torah. **The mitzva is to count both days and weeks.** Therefore, on the eighth day, we say, "today is eight days, which are one week and one day in the omer."

ספירת העומר The Counting of the Omer

Adapted from:
[http://www.torah.org/
learning/yomtov/omer/
sefira.php3](http://www.torah.org/learning/yomtov/omer/sefira.php3)

On Yom HaShoah we remember the six million Jewish souls that were destroyed during World War II, 1939 - 1945. Men, women and children were murdered by the wicked Nazis, may their name be erased for all time. Every year, on Yom HaShoah, we remember those who sanctified the name of Hashem by remaining strong even in the hardest times and using their last breaths to say "Shema Yisrael". Approximately five million non-Jewish civilians were also murdered by the Nazis.

יום השואה Holocaust Day

Adapted from:
[http://www.torah.org/
learning/yomtov/
holocaust/no1.html](http://www.torah.org/learning/yomtov/holocaust/no1.html)

Yom HaZikaron is Israel's memorial day for its fallen soldiers. It is usually observed on the 4th of Iyar. On the evening preceding Yom HaZikaron and again, in the morning, **a siren wails throughout Israel and everyone pauses for the one minute duration of the siren.** Traffic grinds to a halt, and both pedestrians and drivers stand at attention silently, thinking about the sacrifices made for this country still struggling for survival.

Throughout the country and across the world, special services are held in honour of the fallen soldiers and all those who have given their lives defending the State of Israel. **Many light memorial candles, give tzedoko or learn Torah on behalf of the fallen soldiers, or study the history of the Jewish State.**

יום הזכרון Remembrance Day (also one of the names of ראש השנה)

Adapted from:
[http://www.wujs.org.il/
activist/learning/festivals/
yom_hazikaron/
index.shtml](http://www.wujs.org.il/activist/learning/festivals/yom_hazikaron/index.shtml)

Yom Ha'Atzma'ut means "Independence Day." It falls on the 5th of Iyar, and it is **the day we celebrate the declaration and establishment of the State of Israel.**

Yom Ha'Atzma'ut begins the moment that Yom HaZikaron ends, and in Israel there is a drastic change in mood as people go from mourning for those who fell fighting for the state to rejoicing and celebrating Israel's statehood. All kinds of celebrations take place all over Israel and throughout the Diaspora (outside Israel) and **many people wear blue and white and display the Israeli flag from their homes and cars.**

יום העצמאות Independence day

Adapted from:
[http://www.wujs.org.il/
activist/learning/festivals/
yom_haatzmaut/
index.shtml](http://www.wujs.org.il/activist/learning/festivals/yom_haatzmaut/index.shtml)