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# iMap ISRAEL



Activity Kit



חינוך ונוער  
Youth & Education



קרן קימת לישראל  
K K L - J N F



Overseas Department  
Education Division  
KKL- JNF



Production: Amiti Productions Ltd

Dear Shlichim, Teachers, Counselors and Educators!

The Overseas Department of the Education Division at KKL-JNF is delighted to present you with the :

### "iMap Israel" Activity Kit

This kit is designed for activities run at various frameworks in the Diaspora, and includes: an activity manual, a map and accessories for activities.

Since its inception until the present time, the State of Israel has undergone many changes in the social, cultural, geographical, economic and political spheres. These changes have influenced its urban and social-cultural structure and landscape. During its 70 years of existence, Israel has experienced a wave of achievement, development and construction, which is practically unmatched around the world. These changes are reflected on Israel's geographic map.

The kit's goal is to create an emotional connection to the Land of Israel and its landscapes and stories, a connection to the historical roots, on one hand, and contemporary Israeli reality on the other. Moreover, the kit offers a basic introduction to KKL- JNF's endeavors in Israel.

The book offers a variety of activities, some designed to introduce Israel's different areas and to enrich knowledge regarding these areas; and other activities are interactive and designed to connect the participant to the atmosphere on the Israeli street and to life in Israel.

We hope that in addition to its educational value, the manual will offer an important factor in creating a connection between Diaspora Jews and Israel, through KKL- JNF, which has always worked on behalf of the State of Israel.

Sincerely,  
The Overseas Department  
of the Education Division at KKL- JNF



# iMap ISRAEL



## Activity Manual

### **Activity Goals:**

To create an emotional experiential connection with the Land of Israel, its landscapes and stories, a connection to the historical roots, and an introduction to contemporary Israel through learning the map of Israel.

**Nature of the Activity:** Combines knowledge and experience

**Target Population:** Diaspora Jews

**Age:** Teenagers and young adults

**Duration of the Activity:** 45 to 120 minutes

**Location:** Anywhere

**Required equipment:** A map is required for each of the activities and for each of the activities there is a list of the specific required equipment.

# General Introductory Activities Geographic Orientation

## Activity 1: Locations



**Nature of the Activity:** Geographical introduction.



**Age:** Teenagers and young adults



**Duration of the Activity:** 30 minutes



**Preparations:** Prepare the small flags and the answer sheet for the map inside the booklet.



### **The Course of the Activity:**

Distribute the flags to each of the participants. Explain that the points on the map represent the location of the flags. Ask each participant to take his turn positioning flag. Mention that they can use the legend on the map and the various marking points. If the participant is correct, commend him for his knowledge and ask him how he knew where to position the flag and say a few words about the location (if possible). If the participant is incorrect – ask the other students to help him and offer them hints regarding the correct location.

### **Follow-up Activity:**

After the positioning of the flags, you may continue with one of the following activities or focus on a specific area based on the location or the students' personal connection to the region.

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## Activity 2: Three Points



**Type of the Activity:** Geographical introduction.



**Age:** Teenagers and young adults



**Duration of the Activity:** 120 minutes



**Preparations:** Hand out the small flags to the groups based on the different categories. Photocopy and cut out the appropriate paragraph from the manual for each flag and distribute these as well.



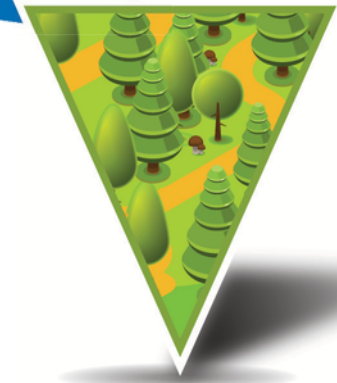
### **The Course of the Activity:**

Divide the participants into six groups based on the different categories on the map. Give each group three small flags that belong to its category and appropriate information paragraphs from the manual. Ask each group to position the flags based on the information paragraphs. The group that correctly positions the flags wins a point. Next, ask each group to select one of its three locations and prepare a short jingle, based on the information in the paragraph, designed to convince the public that this is a spot they should visit.

# General Introductory Activities

## Geographic Orientation

### Activity 3: Two by Two



**Type of the Activity:** A competitive contest for couples.



**Age:** Teenagers and young adults



**Duration of the Activity:** 60 minutes



**Preparations:** Prepare the quiz cards and the small flags. If the number of participants is smaller than the locations, you should take out the matching small flags and cards before the activity begins.



#### **The Course of the Activity:**

Divide the students into two groups – the flag group and the card group. Ask each person from the flag group to take a small flag and each of the participants in the card group to take quiz cards. Now, explain the assignment: The flag group members must try to position the small flag they received in the right location, pinning it to the map. The card group must answer the questions they received and place the question near the right flag. The first couple to answer the question and locate the position will win the competition. After one round, switch the groups (a participant who received a flag will now receive a card and vice versa) and play the game again.

**Note:** Add some words about each location, using the information in the manual, depending on the time and relevant emphases for the age group and the activity area.

## Activity 4: Groups of Threes



**Type of the Activity:** Game for groups, in three stages .



**Age:** Teenagers and young adults



**Duration of the Activity:** 120 minutes



**Preparations:** Divide the students into two groups. Hand out six question cards to each group and place the remaining cards in a pile in the center. If you want to shorten the activity, you may remove a specific category or reduce the number of matching cards and small flags from the larger categories.



**The Course of the Activity:** Divide the students into two groups and begin the Groups of Three game, in which each group must complete as many series as possible – complete categories, based on the list in the blank map legend. (There are categories in which there are three locations and others that have more locations. Use the map legend). Each group will take a turn asking the rival group if it has a card that belongs to a specific category. If it does – this card must be given to the group that asked for it. If it doesn't have the card, the group asking the question must take a card from the pile. After one of the groups collects all the questions from one of the categories, stop the game and let the participants in that group answer these questions. Each question answered will earn them a flag, which they can position on the map. After all the flags in that category are positioned, the game continues and an opportunity is given to the rival group. The group that answers the most questions and positions the most flags is the winner and is receives a prize.



# General Introductory Activities Geographic Orientation

## Activity 5: Israel's Regions



**Type of the Activity:** A competitive contest in two stages .



**Age:** Teenagers and young adults



**Duration of the Activity:** 60 minutes



**Preparations:** This activity highlights Israel's various regions. Use only the small flags and cards that are relevant to these regions. In the tie-breaking stage, only use the forest and river flags.



### **The Course of the Activity:**

Divide the participants into two groups. Read a question aloud from the card. The group that correctly answers the question will win the card. The winning group in the first stage is the group to win the most cards. Next, match each flag with each card. Based on the students' answers, gather the cards and distribute the flags evenly between the groups. Ask participants to position the flags on the map: In this stage, the winning group is the group to position the most flags.

If there is a tie between the groups, continue positioning the forest and river flags. The group to position the most flags will win the game.

**Note:** Add some words about each location, using the information in the manual, depending on the time and relevant emphases for the age group and the activity area.

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# Additional Activities

## Activity 6:

### We See Your True Colors Map of Israel and the colors of KKL- JNF's logo



#### Objectives:

1. Learning the components of the map of Israel.
2. Learning the colors of the KKL- JNF logo and their significance.



**Age:** Teenagers and young adults



**Duration of the Activity:** 50 minutes



#### Accessories:

White sheets of A4 paper  
Pens/ pencils  
Crayons (brown, blue and green) – according to the number of participants  
Map of Israel  
Question cards  
Information cards  
Small flags: rivers and water sources, cities, forests and parks



#### Course of the Activity:

**Stage 1:** The participants draw a map of Israel and an explanation of the KKL- JNF colors (10 minutes)  
**Stage 2:** Quiz (25 minutes)  
**Stage 3:** Summary (10 minutes)

#### Stage 1: The participants draw a map of Israel and an explanation of the KKL- JNF colors (10 minutes)

The facilitator will distribute paper and four colors: black, brown, blue and green.

The participants are then asked to draw a map of Israel using a black line, based on their knowledge or how they imagine it to be.

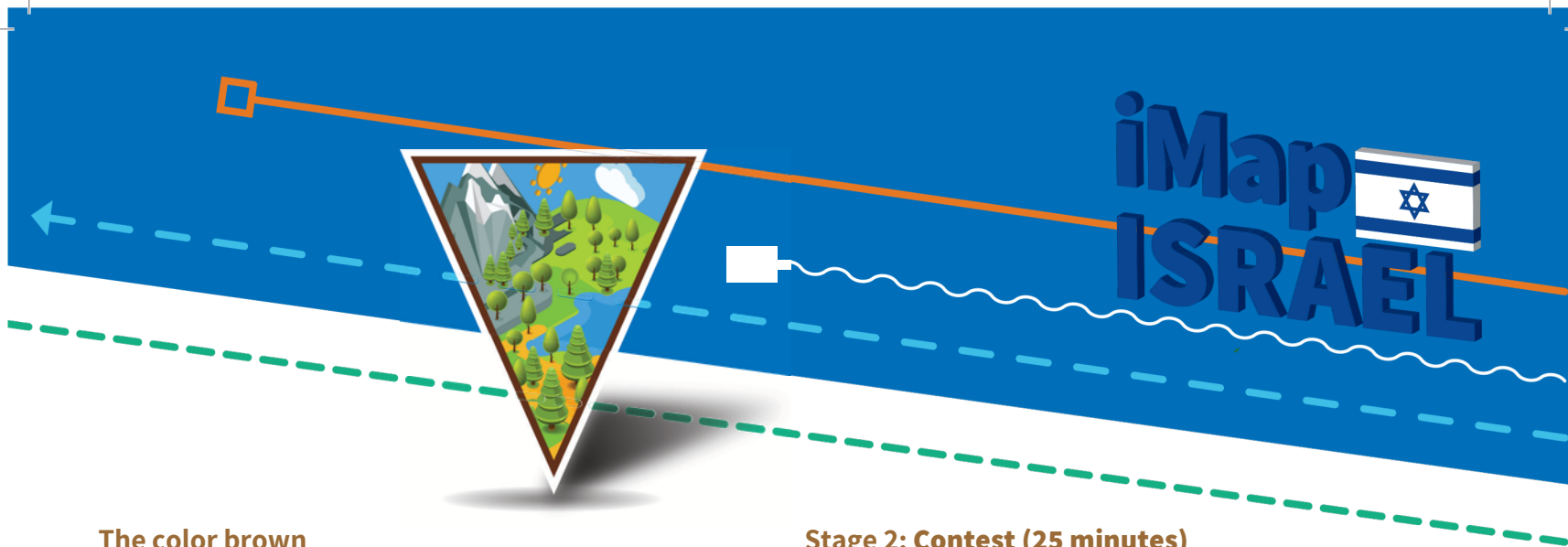
Next, they are asked to add the following to the map:  
Points on the map that signify the main cities – in **brown**.  
Forests and green spaces – in **green**.  
Water sources (seas, lakes, rivers, streams) – in **blue**.

**Subjects for Discussion:** What was the level of the participants' knowledge of the map of Israel before the activity?

- What did they base their drawing on?

Next, spread out a map of Israel on the floor. Look at the map together, give examples of the location of cities, rivers and forests. Ask the participants if the map they drew was similar to the actual map of Israel.

Explain to the participants that the three colors they received make up the KKL- JNF logo. Each color signifies a broad area of KKL- JNF's activity in the field.



### The color brown

symbolizes KKL- JNF's historic role as the redeemer of lands. It's job in the past and present is land reclamation, establishing new settlements, supporting agricultural research and development, breakthroughs, creating infrastructure, etc.

### The color green

symbolizes KKL- JNF's activity in the field of afforestation of Israel, including the planting, cultivation and development of Israel's forests and groves. Stemming the desertification process and creating green lungs, recreation areas, paths and scenic routes for hiking and driving.

### The color blue

symbolizes KKL- JNF's contribution to the water economy; KKL- JNF is involved in the restoration of rivers. Together with other institutions, it rehabilitates the coastal streams and the streams of the Jordan and the Arava. KKL- JNF has joined the national effort to supply water to Israel's residents and to agriculture and has expanded the national water supply by building dams and reservoirs for storing floodwater and by recycling treated wastewater.

### Stage 2: Contest (25 minutes)

Divide the participants into three groups: rivers, cities and forests and parks. Only use the appropriate flags. The facilitator will read aloud the questions that pertain to these three subjects. The group that has the answer will send a representative to position the flag in the right location on the map.

**Expanding the subject to Israel's rivers:** We will explain that most of Israel's coastal streams are polluted due to the sewage water that flows through them to the sea. We will mention the importance of the rehabilitation of these streams and the basin management approach adopted by KKL- JNF. We will emphasize the subject of water quality and the need to transform the polluted rivers from a public health hazard into a resource. We will explain sustainable development and ecological Zionism, as related to Israel's river and water economy.

### Expanding the subject to Israel's forests and parks:

What is the importance of the trees and forests that KKL- JNF plants? How do they help us? What are the problems that may occur related to these forests and parks? We will describe Israel's afforestation and the importance of green lungs. We will emphasize

## Activity 6:

# We See Your True Colors

Map of Israel and the colors of KKL- JNF's logo

Continued

the subject of environmental protection, sustainable development and ecological Zionism. We will explain the significance of the ecological footprint and ask participants to enter KKL- JNF's young adults' website, and to consider how many trees must be planted to compensate for their footprint.

### Expanding the subject to Israel's cities and

**settlement:** Describe KKL- JNF's role in the settlement

of Israel and its development and the change undergone by the state since its establishment. Describe KKL- JNF's activities related to land reclamation for agriculture and settlement and the Action Plan: Negev. Explain the concepts of sustainable development and ecological Zionism, the importance of development that takes the needs of future generations into consideration, and the idea of ecological planning – and bring recent examples.

### Stage 3: Summary (10 minutes)

#### Points to summarize:

- Ask the participants: Is there something you can do to protect the environment?
- In summary, tell the participants that our generation must protect the environment and continue to develop it. We have a great responsibility toward the future generations.

We will teach the participants the song:

My Country Israel (explain the song's lyrics):

### "My Country Israel "

Lyrics & melody: Datia Ben Dor

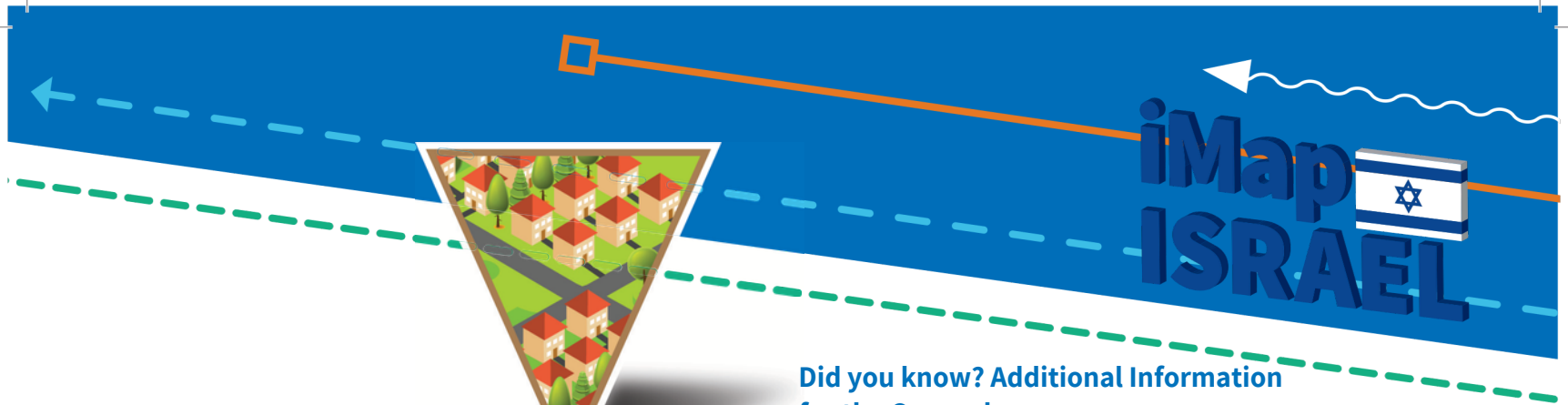
My country Israel  
Is beautiful and flowering  
Who built it and who developed it?  
All of us together!  
I built a house In the land of Israel  
So we have a land  
And we have a house In the land of Israel

My country Israel  
Is beautiful and flowering  
Who built it and who developed it?  
All of us together!  
I planted a tree In the land of Israel  
So we have a land

And we have a house  
And we have a tree In the land of Israel

My country Israel  
Is beautiful and flowering  
Who built it and who developed it?  
All of us together!  
I paved a road  
In the land of Israel  
So we have a land

And we have a house  
And we have a tree  
And we have a road In the land of Israel



My country Israel  
Is beautiful and flowering  
Who built it and who developed it?  
All of us together!  
I built a bridge In the land of Israel  
So we have a land  
And we have a house  
And we have a tree  
And we have a road  
And we have a bridge In the land of Israel

My country Israel  
Is beautiful and flowering  
Who built it and who developed it?  
All of us together!  
I wrote a song In the land of Israel  
So we have a land  
And we have a house  
And we have a tree  
And we have a road  
And we have a bridge  
And we have a song In the land of Israel

### Did you know? Additional Information for the Counselor

- Approximately 60 percent of Israel's land is desert. Nevertheless, it is covered in trees. Many of Israel's green spaces are forests planted by KKL- JNF prior to the establishment of the State of Israel, and planting continues until the present day.
- Desertification is a process in which fertile land becomes desert, which cannot be used to grow agricultural crops, where animals cannot survive and which is not suitable for establishing human settlement. Israel is considered one of the most advanced countries in the field of combating desertification. KKL- JNF is engaged in many projects designed to stem this phenomenon: these include: the building of limans, which are water reservoirs surrounded by dirt dams, designed to infiltrate water into the soil and make it fertile.
- Israel does not have many water sources, but the sources it does have are diverse. Israel is surrounded by brackish seas: the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea and the Dead Sea – the lowest place in the world. The Sea of Galilee is the only body of water that supplies potable water. The water from rivers in the Golan Heights flows into the Sea of Galilee each year; however, this water is not sufficient to provide drinking water to the entire country. Additional sources are the coastal streams and the Jordan River which leaves the Sea of Galilee and flows into the Dead Sea. All of these bodies of water are dependent upon the rainy days of the winter.

## Activity 7:

# Zoom In: A Look at Israel Using the Map



### Objectives:

1. Introducing different facts about Israel
2. To peak the curiosity of the participants to learn about Israel and get to know the country better.



**Age:** Teenagers and young adults



**Duration of the Activity:** 45 minutes



### Equipment:

Contact paper  
Card – true/false  
Map of Israel  
Small flags: Tel Aviv, Yatir Forest, Biria Forest, the four holy cities: Jerusalem/ Safed/ Tiberias/ Hebron, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, the Besor Reservoir, The Agamon Hula Lake Park  
2 measuring tapes



### Course of the Activity:

**Stage 1:** What do we really know about Israel?  
(25 minutes)

**Stage 2:** Summary (10 minutes)

### Stage 1: What do we really know about Israel? (25 minutes)

We will spread out the map in the activity area. On one side of the map, we will place a card with the word True, and on the other side, a card with the word False.

We will read aloud various facts about Israel. The participants will be asked to decide if the fact is true or false and each participant will then stand next to the card that matches his answer.

Next to some of the facts that are activities or tasks related to the map.

### True/ False Facts:

#### 1. Tel Aviv is the capital of the State of Israel.

True/ **False**

The flag of Tel Aviv is placed on the map and the importance of this Israeli city is explained.

Expansion: Jerusalem is Israel's capital. Tel Aviv is Israel's first Hebrew city, in which David Ben Gurion declared the establishment of the State of Israel. It is Israel's largest cultural center, which also is home to many embassies, etc.



# iMap ISRAEL



## 2. Israel's land area is 20,770 square kilometers.

True/ False

Take out the measuring tape and ask for three volunteers to stretch it out to measure the length and breadth of the map and calculate the area based on the map's scale.

**Expansion:** The area of the State of Israel is slightly smaller than the area of the state of New Jersey in the U.S.

## 3. A car trip from northern Israel to southern Israel takes 8 hours.

True/ False

The distance from Metulla, Israel's northernmost city to Eilat, its southernmost city is 520 kilometers.

**Expansion:** The estimated travel time in a private car is 5 hours and 33 minutes.

## 4. A third of Israel's land area is desert.

True/ False

Volunteers are asked to lie down on the map. Then count the number of people that fit in the Negev area in relation to the other areas of the map.

**Expansion:** About 60% of Israel's land area is desert. This region is known in Hebrew as the Negev.

## 5. The world's oldest cemetery still in use is located in Tiberias.

True/ False

Flags are placed on the four holy cities – Tiberias, Safed, Hebron and Jerusalem.

**Expansion:** The oldest cemetery in the world is found on the Mount of Olives.

## 6. Israel is considered one of the most advanced countries in the world in the field of water desalination.

True/ False

**Expansion:** In Israel, over 50% of the water is recycled for reuse. KKL- JNF is a partner in many of Israel's water desalination plants. Among KKL- JNF's activities in the water economy: the reflooding of the Hula swamp and water collection. Flags are placed on the Agamon Hula Lake Park and the Besor Reser voir.

## 7. In Israel, there are 80 kilometers of seashore.

True/ False

The seashore is measured and its length is calculated based on the scale of the map.

**Expansion:** In Israel, there are 273 kilometers of seashore, of which 60% are sandy beaches and the remainder, rocky beaches.

## Activity 7:

Continued

### Zoom In: A Look at Israel Using the Map

#### 8. The Sea of Galilee is the lowest place in the world.

True/ False

The Dead Sea flag and Sea of Galilee flag are placed on the map.

**Expansion:** The Dead Sea is the lowest place; however, the Sea of Galilee is the lowest source of potable water in the world.

#### 9. Israel is the only country in the world where the number of trees is increasing.

True/ False

The flags of the Yatir Forest and Biria Forest are placed on the map and KKL- JNF afforestation project is explained.

**Expansion:** As part of KKL- JNF's afforestation project, over 240 million trees have been planted in Israel.

#### 10. Each year, about one million notes are placed between the stones of the Western Wall.

True/ False

A flag of Jerusalem is placed on the map.

**Expansion:** The Western Wall Heritage Foundation provides an online service that places notes in the Wall.

#### 11. Israel is one of the world's leaders in the field of hi-tech – A result of the excellence of its human resource.

True/ False

Flags of Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beer Sheva and Jerusalem are placed on the map.

**Expansion:** As a result of the abundance of startups, many people consider Israel to be the world's second Silicon Valley, after the U.S.

#### 12. Israel shares third place with Switzerland with the largest ratio of patents per capita.

True/ False

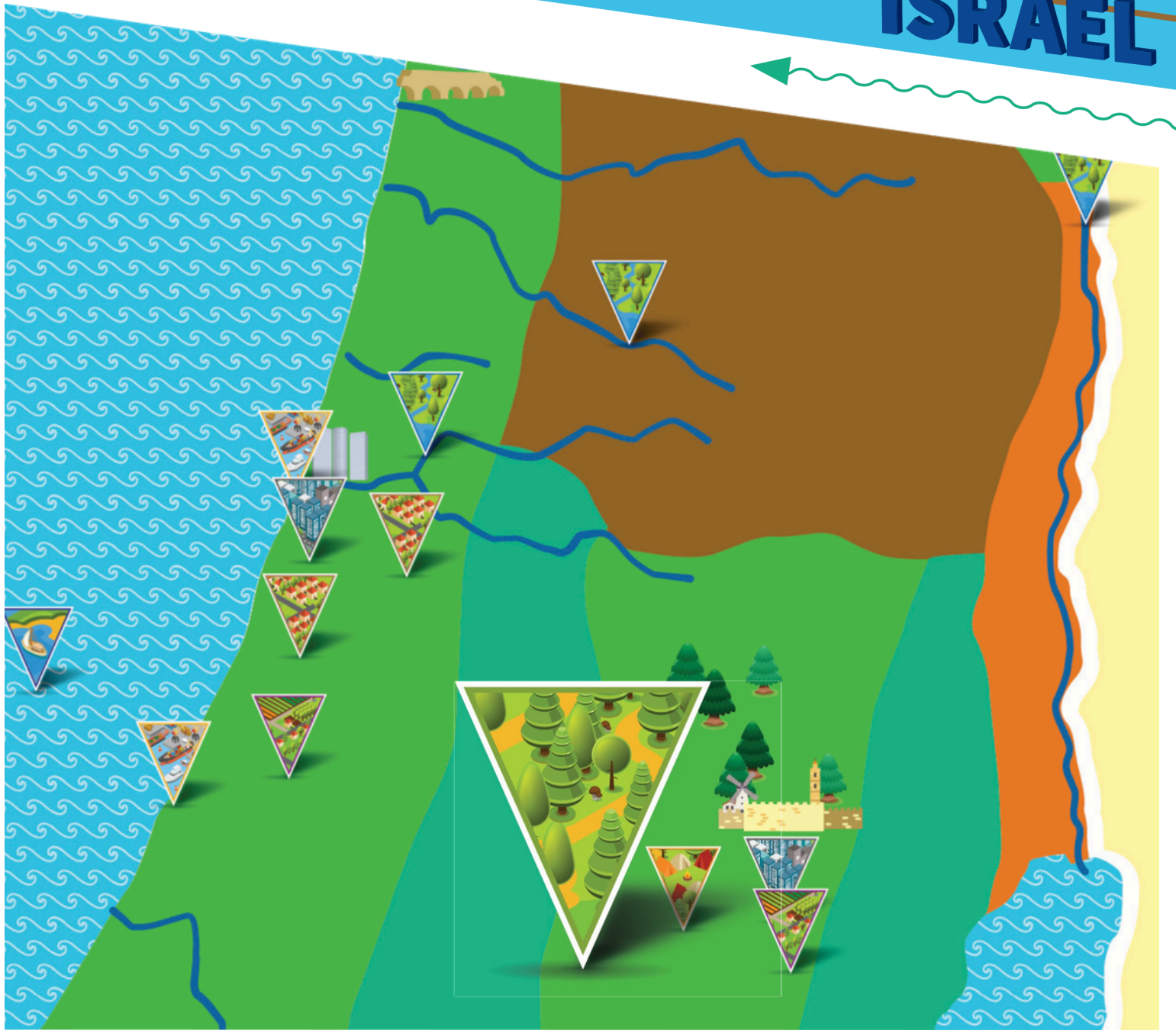
**Expansion:** Since the 21st century, eight Israeli scientists have received the Nobel Prize in scientific fields

#### Stage 2: Summary (10 minutes)

##### Summary Questions:

- Which places do you especially want to visit in Israel and why?
- What are the new things you learned about Israel during this activity? What else would you like to know?
- Did you discover new facts about Israel?

# iMap ISRAEL



# Activity 8: Settlement in Israel



## Objectives:

1. Introducing the story of the establishment of the State of Israel using the map.
2. Exposure to Israel's different types of settlement and their key figures.
3. Experience, learning and group building.



**Age:** Teenagers and young adults



**Duration of the Activity:** 70 minutes



## Equipment:

Map of Israel  
Colorful stickers (6 different colors)  
Flags of the different types of settlement  
Information folders on each type of settlement (as an appendix to the manual)  
Settlement Flags: The four holy cities: Jerusalem, Safed, Tiberias, Hebron. The first moshavot: Petach Tikva, Rosh Pina, Zichron Yaakov, Rishon L'Zion, Kibbutz Kineret  
Development Town – Sderot, Moshav Nahalal, Tel Aviv



## Course of the Activity:

**Stage 1:** Background on the activity and division into groups (5 minutes)

**Stage 2:** Working in groups (30-45 minutes)

**Stage 3:** The story of the Land of Israel (25 minutes)

**Stage 4:** Summary (10 minutes)

## Stage 1: Division into groups (5 minutes)

We will spread out the map in the activity area.

We will divide the participants into 6 groups, which will each be marked with a different colored sticker.

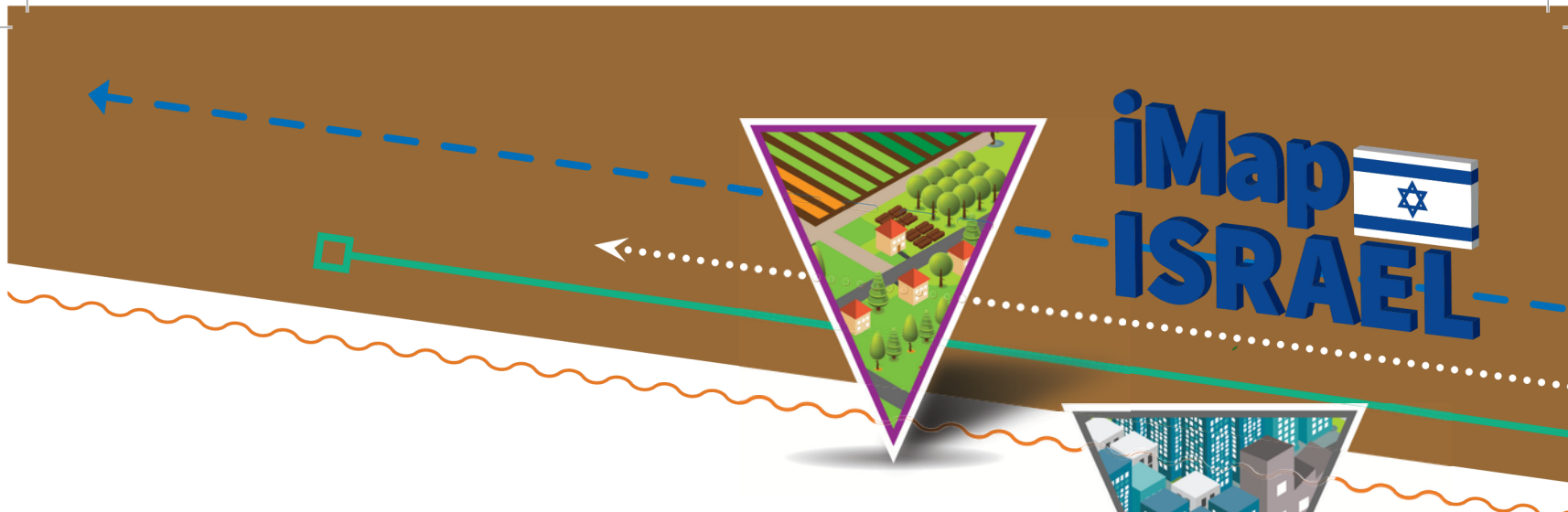
## Stage 2: Working in groups (30-45 minutes)

Each group will receive information on a particular type of settlement and a figure related to it (for example: Kibbutz – Naomi Shemer) and it will be asked to present the information to the entire group in a creative manner: a play, video, PowerPoint presentation, Rap, etc.

- The type of settlement and its characteristics. Their presentation must refer to the following points:
  - A description of the figure mentioned in the information card and his/her social/public activity.
- If available on the internet, they can use various applications such as: Google, Google Images, Google Earth, YouTube and prepare a Gif video, PowerPoint presentation, a photo album on Instagram, etc.

During the next stage, each group must give their presentation, through a representative of the entire group.

Each group will be allotted approximately 5 minutes.



### Stage 3: The Story of the Land of Israel (25 minutes)

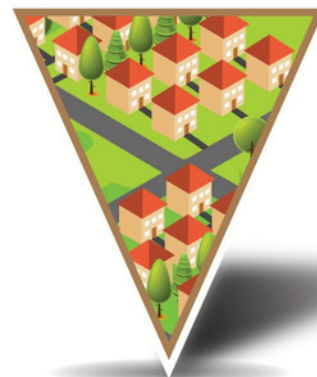
Each group will make their presentation; and next, a representative of the group will place a flag of the type of settlement they presented on the map, in the right location. The flag of Kibbutz Kineret will be placed next to the Sea of Galilee, the flag of Moshav Nahalal, in the northern Jezreel Valley.

### Stage 4: Summary (10 minutes)

In this stage, we will go around the circle and ask the participants which of the figures they would have liked to meet, or which settlement they would like to visit, and why.

They may be asked to share with the others one thing that they learned about Israel and its settlement during the activity.

In summary, the facilitator should mention that although Israel is small, it features many types of settlement (settlements, moshavim, kibbutzim, cities); and consequently, a person can choose to live in a place that suits his and his family's personality.



# Activity 9: Don't Leave Me Dry

## Israel's Water Shortage



### Objectives:

1. Understanding Israel's water shortage.
2. Learning about Israel's and KKL- JNF's state-of-the-art solutions.
3. Developing creative thinking.



**Age:** Teenagers and young adults



**Duration of the Activity:** 45 minutes



### Equipment:

Map of Israel  
Cups of water  
6 disposable tablespoons  
2 disposable bowls  
Information cards on Israel's water sources  
Flags



### Course of the Activity:

**Stage 1:** Opening game (10 minutes)  
**Stage 2:** Water sources in Israel (15 minutes)  
**Stage 3:** KKL- JNF's contribution to Israel's water shortage and summary (20 minutes)

### Stage 1: Opening game (10 minutes)

We will spread out the map and play the game – Sea / Land – with the participants. When the facilitator calls out Sea, the participants must stand on one of the seas on the map. When he calls out Land – they must stand on a land mass.

Questions following the game:

- How many seas does Israel have? (Mediterranean, Galilee, Dead Sea and Red Sea)
- From which sources that were mentioned can one drink the water?
- In your opinion, can the Sea of Galilee supply all of Israel's drinking water?

### Stage 2: Water sources in Israel (15 minutes)

**To the counselor:** An explanation of Israel's water shortage appears in the information cards.



### Illustrative Game – A Shortage of Sources:

We will select six volunteers and give each of them a spoon. Three volunteers will receive three cups of water, one cup for each of them. Each of the cups will be placed on a different coastal stream on the map. Three other volunteers will receive one cup of water for the three of them. They will place the cup on the Sea of Galilee. At a distance from the cups, we will place the bowls, one bowl for each group.

The facilitator will ask the six volunteers to transfer the water from the cups to the bowls using the spoons they received, illustrating how the one cup of water received by the three participants becomes empty very fast. This will demonstrate how everyone drinks from the same water source, which may dry up quicker in the absence of other water sources available for drinking.

### Did you know?

- Where Israel's drinking water comes from? Israel's drinking water comes from pumping from the Sea of Galilee, rain water and groundwater (the Highland and Coastal Aquifers).
- For additional reading: What Do We Drink? Use the Center for Educational Technology's virtual library. Authors: Attorney Alona Karo-Yefet; Adam, Teva Va'din: the Israel Society for Environmental Protection).

### Stage 3: KKL- JNF's contribution to Israel's water shortage and summary (20 minutes)

During this stage, we will divide participants into three groups and ask each group to think of a creative solution to Israel's water shortage. We will let them use the information cards or the internet for help.

Subsequently, a representative of each group will tell everyone about his group's solution.

In summary, the facilitator will describe KKL- JNF's activity in this field (See the card on the subject of Reservoirs).

### Did you know?

Sometimes, it seems that in the world we live, there is an unlimited amount of water. In actuality, each one of us has a great responsibility to protect the water for ourselves and for the generations to come.

In Israel, there is a negative water balance, i.e., there is a need for more water than the water supplied by the rains. This problem has concerned Israel's leaders since its establishment. In order to solve the shortage of rainwater, KKL- JNF works in collaboration with the State of Israel to create drinking, irrigation and industrial water using a number of methods:

**Reclaimed Treated Wastewater** – Sewage water that

## Activity 9: **Don't Leave Me Dry** Israel's Water Shortage

Continued

undergoes a treatment process that makes the water suitable for reuse, in irrigation and industry.

**Seawater Desalination** – The desalination of brackish seawater into drinking water. This process is conducted nationwide, primarily using technology known as Reverse Osmosis.

**Cloud Seeding** – An artificial method for increasing rainfall.

**Floodwater Harvesting** – Collection of floodwater using dams or pumping from the streams.

**In the world:** The world's sources of potable water are diminishing and the reasons for this are many: The world's population is increasing, global warming, overuse of existing reservoirs, etc.

Potable water constitutes only 3% of all the water on the face of the Earth, and only 1% is fit for drinking. A marked amount of this water is found in icebergs or in inaccessible groundwater. Additionally, for years, many water sources that were fit for drinking have been polluted or salinized.

As the world population increases, the demand for water will increase and the shortage will be felt in more extensive areas of the world. In order to deal with this problem, great efforts are being invested in order to increase the supply of potable water using technologies such as desalination and by a more efficient use of the existing potable water.



# iMap ISRAEL



## Activity 10:

# We Do It Your Way An Experiential Tour of Israel



### Objectives:

1. Introducing Israel's map and attractions.
2. Creating an emotional connection between the participants and Israel.



**Age:** Teenagers and young adults



**Duration of the Activity:** 90 minutes



### Equipment:

Attractions – Information Sheets for marking  
Computer + Internet  
Camera / cellular devices accessible to the internet  
Projector + screen



### Course of the Activity:

**Stage 1:** Opening and marketing the attractions on the information sheet (15 minutes)

**Stage 2:** Division into teams and building a group itinerary for a trip to Israel (30 minutes)

**Stage 3:** Preparing a marketing presentation for the trip itinerary (30 minutes)

**Stage 4:** Presentations and summary (20 minutes)

### Stage 1: Opening and marketing the attractions on the information sheet (15 minutes)

In this stage, the participants will create an itinerary for a trip to Israel, based on their fields of interest. Each participant will receive a sheet of paper, with all the activities that can be added to a trip to Israel. Each one should mark the three activities in which he would most like to participate.

The activities: a trip to the desert, snorkeling, a visit to the zoo or safari, a visit to the botanical gardens, a walking tour, a visit to the art museums and galleries, kayaks, yacht, sunbathing on the beach, water park, skiing in the Hermon, a visit to the neighborhoods, a visit to the archeology museum, archeological digs, a visit to historical sites, volunteering and social activity, diving, cycling, a jeep tour, a trip to the springs, a tasting tour of the market, horseback riding, skydiving, camel riding, cooking workshop, folk dancing, a tour of the Knesset, a tour of the Supreme Court, a performance of their favorite Israeli singer, a visit to KKL- JNF sites, camping, a visit to the KKL- JNF field centers, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Eilat, the Dead Sea, Masada, the Western Wall, Yad Vashem.

\*Each participant can add one activity or his own.



# iMap ISRAEL



## **Stage 2: Division into teams and building a group itinerary for a trip to Israel (30 minutes)**

In this stage, we will divide the group into teams of about five people.

Each of the teams will plan a trip to Israel, based on the following guidelines:

**Time:** One week

**Budget:** The group must agree on a daily budget that each of the participants can afford.

**Diversity:** The trip itinerary must include a variety of activities and sites.

**Emphasis:** The program must include historical sites and offer the participants an in-depth introduction to Israel.

In order to build an itinerary, the teams can use the printed map, Google Maps, or any other site that will help them create the itinerary and understand the distances between the various destinations.

## **Stage 3: Preparing a marketing presentation for the trip itinerary (30 minutes)**

After the itineraries are prepared, each team will prepare a marketing presentation designed to convince the other participants to choose their itinerary, when they visit Israel. The teams can include a representation of

photographs of the sites they selected, photograph themselves near them by projecting them on the wall, or use the printed map in order to explain the itinerary they

planned.

In order to prepare a presentation or video, they can use applications such as Magisto, Animoto, etc.

## **Stage 4: Presentations and summary (20 minutes)**

In this stage, each team will present its project to the entire group.

Afterward, the participants will be asked:

Which presentation was the most convincing and why?

Did their itinerary entice them to visit Israel?

In summary, we will tell the participants that their participation in the activities and growing understanding and familiarity with Israel has turned them into Israeli ambassadors. The more they will get to know the country and landscapes, the more they can describe it to others or discuss its issues more easily.

# Activity 11: The Israeli Wheel



## Goals:

1. Introduction to concepts related to Israel.
2. Connection to Israel through an interactive game.



**Age:** Teenagers and young adults

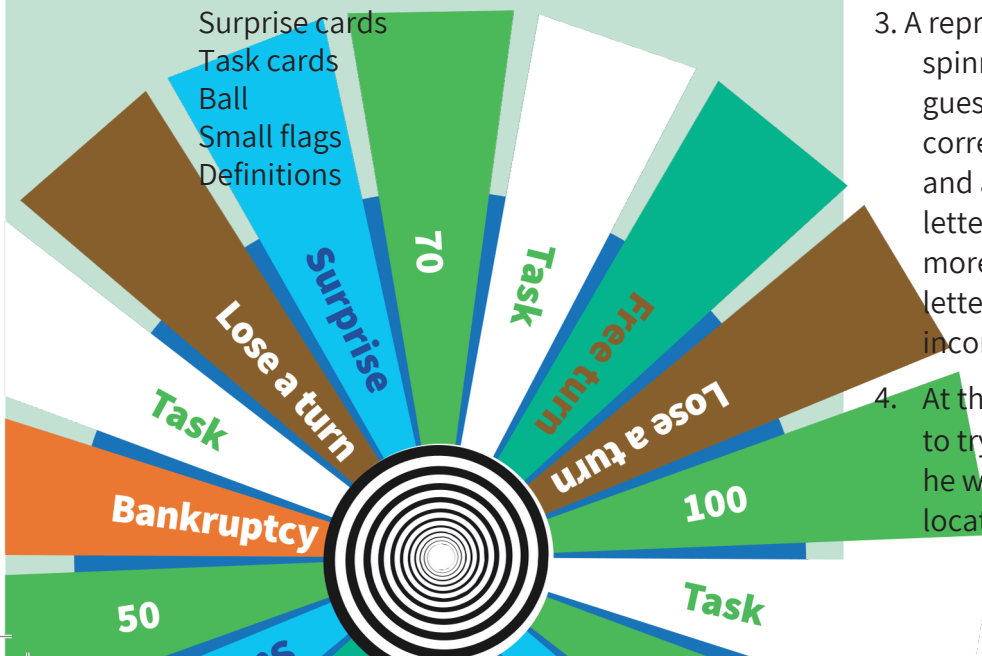


**Duration of the Activity:** 45 minutes



## Equipment:

Map of Israel  
Wheel of fortune divided into wedges  
Bristol boards and thick marker  
Surprise cards  
Task cards  
Ball  
Small flags  
Definitions



## Game Instructions

Spread out the map in the room.

1. As preparation for each activity round, we will use the Bristol board to mark the missing concept on the empty lines, one line for each letter of the word. Make sure there is a space between the words so the team can see how many words there are and how many letters in each concept
2. The group will be divided into two competing teams. The facilitator will define the subject (from a list of subjects on the following page).
3. A representative from each team will take a turn spinning the wheel of fortune, and then will try to guess the missing concept on the Bristol board. A correct guess wins the prize pointed to by the spinner and another guess. The facilitator will write down the letter revealed in the right place. If that letter appears more than once, the facilitator will mark down the letter in all the places it appears. If the guess is incorrect, the turn goes to the other team.
4. At the beginning of each turn, the player is entitled to try to guess the entire concept. If he succeeds, he will take the right flag and place it in its correct location on the map.



# iMap ISRAEL

## Meaning of the different sections of the wheel:

- **Number:** The team wins the score on the wheel
- **Surprise:** Bonus cards
- **Lose a turn:** The turn goes to the other team
- **Bankruptcy:** The team loses all the points it has accumulated
- **Free turn:** The team receives a free turn
- **Task:** The team must perform a task and win 100 points

The teams accumulate points and surprise cards. The winning team is the team to accumulate the most points.

## Subjects and Definitions:

### A. Israeli cities:

1. Jerusalem
2. Tel Aviv
3. Haifa
4. Beer Sheva
5. Eilat

### B. Israeli Seas:

1. The Mediterranean Sea
2. The Sea of Galilee
3. The Red Sea
4. The Dead Sea

### C. Israeli Rivers:

1. The Yarkon River
2. Taninim River
3. The Jordan River
4. Alexander River

### D. Types of Israeli Settlement

1. City
2. Kibbutz
3. Moshav
4. Development Town

### E. Countries bordering Israel: F. Israeli Regions :

- |            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| 1. Jordan  | Arava            |
| 2. Lebanon | The Shfela       |
| 3. Syria   | 3. Judean Desert |
| 4. Egypt   | 4. Coastal Plain |

## The Surprise Cards

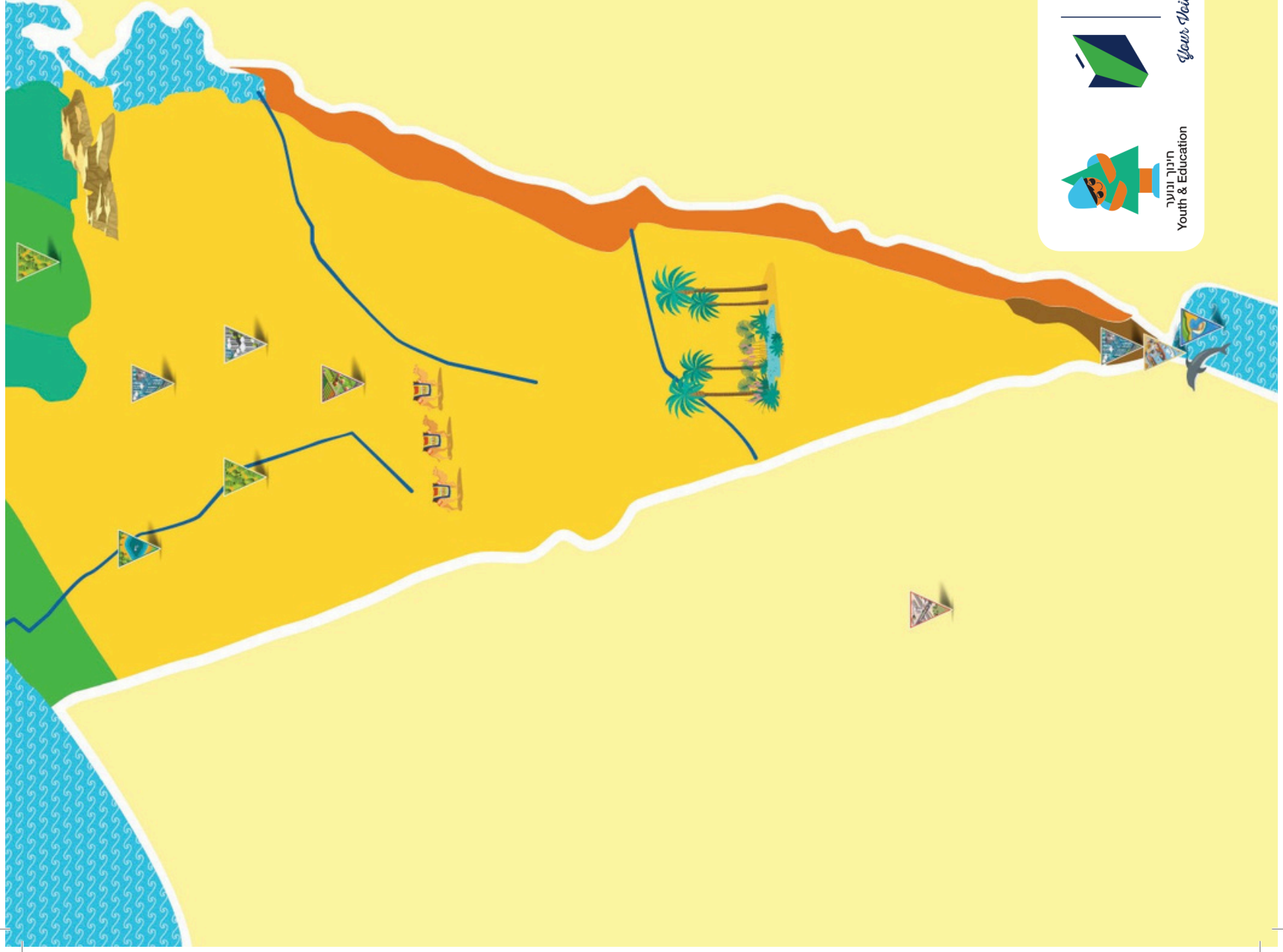
1. Falafel balls for each team – 10 points.
2. 2 tickets to the new Israeli movie that came out this year – 20 points.
3. A package of Bamba, made in Israel – 5 points.
4. Blue and white balloons – 30 points.
5. 10-day vacation package in Israel – 50 points.

## The Task Cards

1. Each team dances the Hora around the Mediterranean Sea.
2. Stand on Jerusalem and sing a song in its honor
3. Stand on the Red Sea and congratulate Israel on its 70th anniversary
4. Roll the beach ball to the Sea of Galilee
5. Jump on one foot between all Israeli seas, in 5 seconds.

# iMAP ISRAEL





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# Activity 12: Twister KKL- JNF Style



## Goals:

1. Interactive summary of the map of Israel
2. Group building



**Age:** Teenagers and young adults



**Duration of the Activity:** 45 minutes



## Equipment:

Map of Israel  
12 round circles X four colors  
Game board for the floor  
Task board with spinner  
Question cards  
Small ball

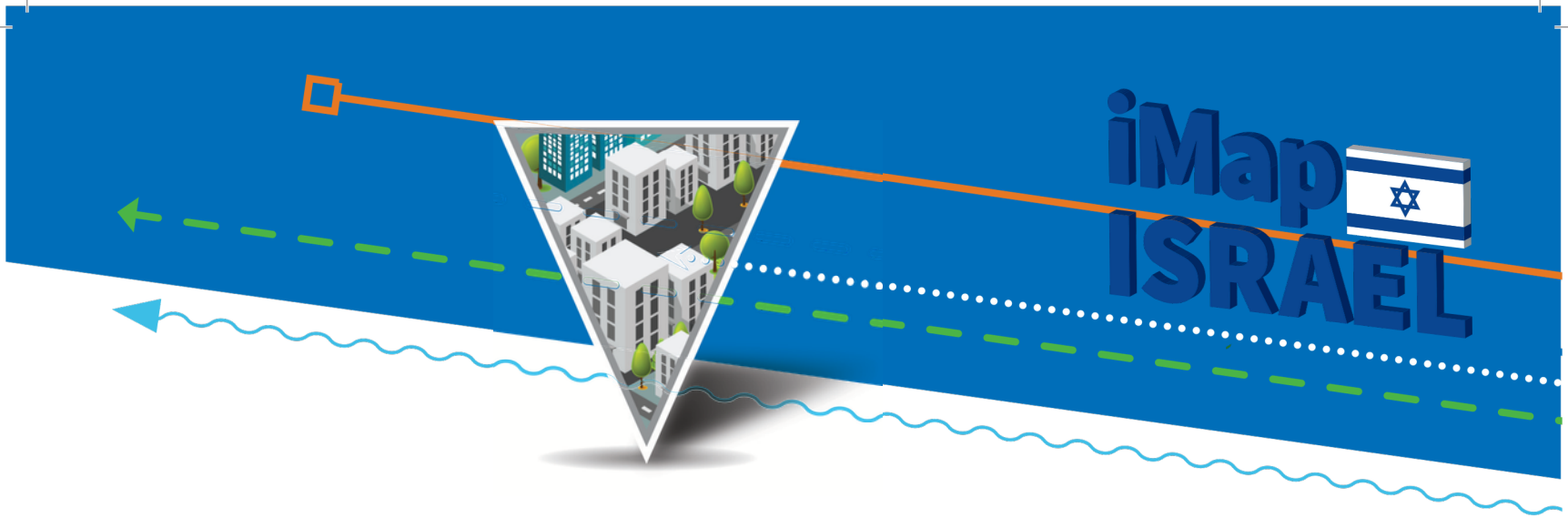
## Game Instructions

Spread out the map on the floor and spread the round stickers along the map, 12 circles in each line, based on colors.

The counselor's job is to spin the spinner and announce the task. The team is split into small groups that will compete against one another. Each group will send representatives for each game turn, so that in each turn, up to eight children will take part.

The counselor spins the spinner and announces which hand or leg or color it points to. For example: If the counselor announces: Right hand - red, the participants must place their right hand on a free red circle, without placing a knee or elbow on the mat. The moment a player places a body part on a circle, he may not move it from that place. Whoever moves is out. The counselor spins the spinner again and announces the new instruction and everyone tries to place the right body part on the circle of the correct color. If all 12 circles of that color are taken, the facilitator spins the spinner again until it stops on a different color.

If it lands on the same color twice in a row, each person can move his hand or foot to another circle of that color. Whoever falls, makes a mistake or places an elbow or

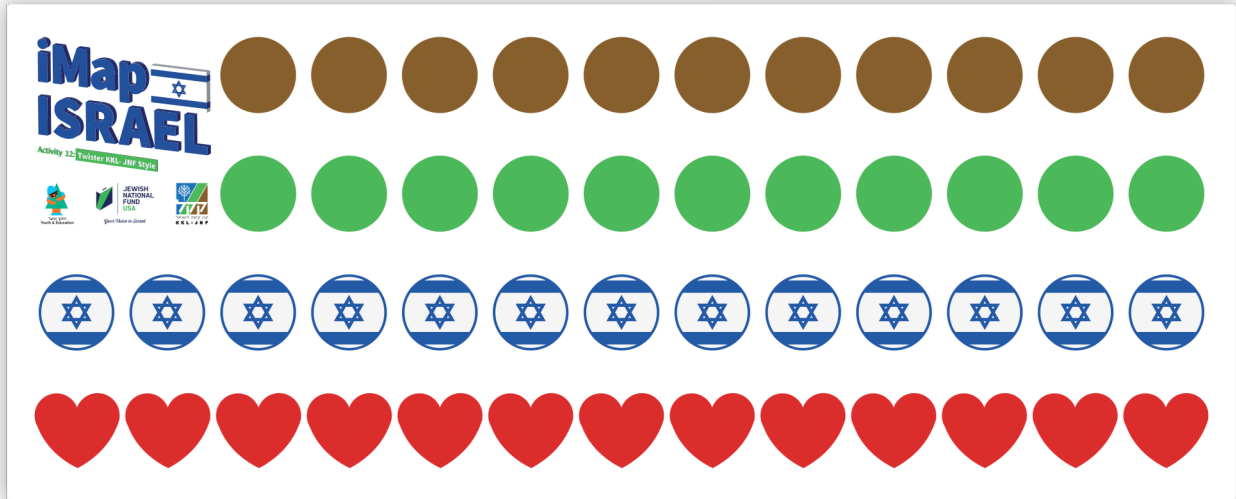
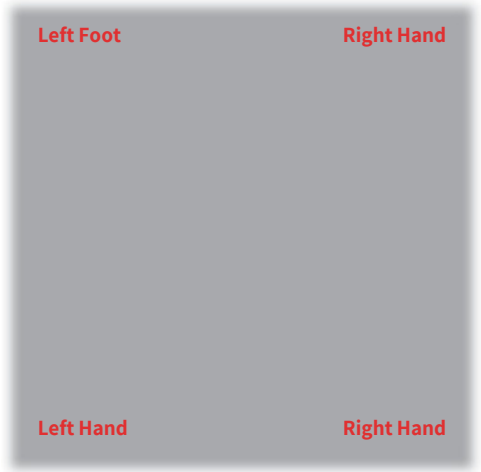


knee on the mat is out and must leave the game.

As the game progresses, the players' hands and feet will become more and more entangled.

**Object of the Game:** To be the last ones on the game board.

This can be played with older age groups. Also, you can give players the option to remove a hand or leg from the knot, if a member of their team answers a question correctly about the map of Israel. This option is offered one time only for each player in a game round.



## Activity 13: Pétanque Sites in Israel



**Age:** Children and teenagers



**Duration of the Activity:** 45 minutes



**Equipment:**

Map of Israel

Question cards

2 soft balls – balloons filled with rice, juggling balls (balls should be somewhat heavy, but not smooth or round)

### Game Instructions

Explain that the points on the map represent the location of the answers to the questions.

The game is a competition between two teams.

A representative of each team will come up on each turn. The two representatives stand facing the map on the floor, at an equal distance from it. The counselor will read out a question from the list of questions in the manual. The teams will answer the question and instruct their representative where to throw the ball.

The players will throw the ball to reach the point closest to the location on the map which is the answer to the question.

The winner is the one whose ball reaches the closest and the team wins a point. If one of the teams answers a question incorrectly, the team member whose answer was correct will win the point, even if his ball was further away. After a team answers correctly, praise the children for their knowledge and add a few words about the location.

After each of the players participates at least once, the winner is announced and the team with the largest number of points.

You may focus on a particular subject from among the question cards or play a more diverse game with all areas on the map.



# iMap ISRAEL



## Questions and Answers:

### Israeli Regions

1. My land resides between the mountain and the plain, excellent alluvial soil. My road was the one the convoy used to ascend the mountain.  
Who am I? **The Shfela**
2. I lie near the sea, everyone wishes to sit on my sand. A great amount of my space is covered in skyscrapers.  
Who am I? **The Coastal Plain**
3. The air here is as clear as wine and the vines flourish. From here you can see the sea in the middle of the desert and descend to our only capital.  
Who are we? **The Judean Hills**
4. In the shadow of the high mountains, the rain descends and the Dead Sea stands alone here quietly. Masada is seen from the high mountain.  
Who am I? **The Judean Desert**
5. In the Syrian- African rift, I stretch and I am traversed through the Baka Valley. On a hot summers day, I am hot like a furnace.  
Who am I? **The Beit Shean Valley**
6. My name is the same as one of the four species, Israelis and Jordanians meet here, my dry desert overtakes any hill.  
Who am I? **The Arava**
7. I am covered with high mountains with deep and narrow valleys between them, my landscapes are spread out over the heights of Mount Meron.  
Who am I? **The Upper Galilee**
8. My low mountains are green and beautiful and covered with fertile forests of oak trees from the valley of Beit Hakerem where I reside. Who am I? **The Lower Galilee**
9. East of the Sea of Galilee on black stones, I overlook and am surrounded by mountains. In the summer, you can pick cherries here.  
Who am I? **The Golan**
10. The mountain ridge soars above the Mediterranean Sea. In my caves, prehistoric man once lived. A mountain that is always green sloping down to the coast  
Who am I? **The Carmel**
11. Always overlooking and soaring above everyone. My head is white, I look out toward the mountain and sea, my chalky stones dominate the north.  
Who am I? **Mount Hermon**
12. I cover more than half of Israel's area. My weather is dry almost the entire year. When rain finally comes – beware! You may be carried away by a flood!  
Who am I? **The Negev**
13. The capital of Israel was once found here. Today, the city of Ariel is found here. From Mount Gerizim, you can see a great deal.  
Who are we? **The Hills of Samaria**

## Activity 13: Pétanque Sites in Israel

Continued

14. On my fertile land, Devorah the prophetess lived; and this same land, was purchased by Yehoshua Hankin for KKL- JNF. Here the worker will always find peace. Who am I? **The Jezreel Valley**

### Seas

15. I am shaped like a beautiful instrument; and travelers on Galilean journey beheld my waves. Rachel the Poetess wrote a lot about me. Who am I? **The Sea of Galilee**

16. I am surrounded by the desert, without a home, tree or bush. I am a weird sea inside a dry desert. The landscape around me looks like blocks of ice. Who am I? **The Dead Sea**

17. You can sail on me and leave the country. Around me are different countries, and I have many islands within me. I am in the middle of continents. Who am I? **The Mediterranean Sea**

### Rivers

18. I am the largest perennial stream of all the coastal streams and I flow in the big city, where there is action around the clock. Who am I? **The Yarkon River**

19. My water flowed to Caesarea through the aqueducts and I am named after an animal with big teeth. Many people visit me and have a great time. Who am I? **Tanimim River**

20. I won an international contest for river rehabilitation and many soft turtles live in me. I am named after a Hasmonean king. Who am I? **The Alexander River**

21. I am the only real river in the Land of Israel. I leave the Sea of Galilee and flow into the Dead Sea. People go rafting on me. Who am I? **The Jordan River**

### Forests, Reservoirs and Parks

22. They say that I am a green lung and that KKL- JNF planted olive trees on me for the first time. I am located in the center of the country. Who am I? **The Ben Shemen Forest**

23. I house a museum inside a fortress. I am the largest forest in the Galilee that was planted by man. KKL- JNF paved beautiful paths here. Who am I? **The Biria Forest**

24. Research is conducted here and ruins of a Biblical city are found on me. I offer hospitality to the older and younger visitor. Who am I? **The Yatir Forest**

25. I collect and store floodwater; and thanks to me, orchards bloom in the Negev. There are more like me and we were built to help. Who am I? **The Besor Reservoir**

26. Many birds land here and drink from my water and rest during their great migration. Who am I? **The Agamon Hula Lake Park**

### Cities – Short Questions

27. Israel's capital - **Jerusalem**

28. The capital of the Negev - **Beer Sheva**

29. Israel's First Hebrew City - **Tel Aviv**

30. The important port city that is located between the sea and the Carmel - **Haifa**

31. One of the four holy cities, that is also the capital of the Upper Galilee - **Safed**

32. One of the four holy cities, located on the seashore - **Tiberias**

33. One of the four holy cities, where our forefathers are buried - **Hebron**

34. On the shore of the Red Sea - **Eilat**

### Types of Settlement – Questions that include figures

35. I am the first moshava. I was built by new immigrants from the Old Yishuv and Rabbi Yoel Moshe Solomon was one of my founders. I am the mother of all hopes. **Petach Tikva**
36. I am located on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and was founded as one of Israel's first kibbutzim. Naomi Shemer, who wrote the song Jerusalem of Gold was born and raised here. **Kibbutz Kineret**
37. I am located in the Jezreel Valley. I was the first moshav. Author Meir Shalev wrote about me in his novels and in the newspaper. **Nahalal**
38. I was founded by immigrants from Morocco and Tunis and Kobi Oz, Tipex's lead singer was born here. **Sderot**
39. I am a main city in Israel, and am home to the Habima Theater, established by actress Chana Rovina and her colleagues. **Tel Aviv**



# Information Manual



## ISRAEL'S REGIONS

### The Coastal Plain

Israel's Coastal Plain is a region of flat land that stretches along the shore of the Mediterranean Sea, from the northern border (the Northern Coastal Plain) in Rosh

Hanikra to the Egyptian border in the south (the Southern Coastal Plain) located in the Gaza Strip.

The Coastal Plain spans the shore of the Mediterranean Sea, and where most of Israel's population resides. The land that covers this region is known as light soil – limestone ridges that were created from shifting sand dunes that have settled or from the red loam soil, which for years was considered unsuitable for agriculture. Only in the 18th century, the residents of Jaffa discovered that, when processed correctly, the loam soil is suitable for growing citrus fruit. After the First World War, KKL- JNF helped establish the citrus settlements (moshavot) of Kfar Saba, Raanana and Herzliya. The swamps that covered extensive sections of this region, deterred people from settling there, and most of the settlement was focused around the port cities. In 1925, KKL- JNF purchased the lands of the Zevulun Valley near the Haifa Bay, and two years later, it purchased the lands of the Hefer Valley.

### The Judean Hills

The mountainous region in the center of Israel was the territory of the tribe of Judah; and thereby it received its name. The region spans from the Baal Hazor Mountain until the Beer Sheva Valley in the south. The mountains are mainly comprised of chalk and dolomite, with soft layers of marlstone and clay between them; and together, they create

a graduated terraced landscape. The climate of the region is Mediterranean, and the natural grove that covered most of the region in the past, was seriously harmed

by milling, grazing and fires.

This hilly region is filled with forests planted by man and a natural grove – 70% of this area is covered in forest. The forests and open space in the Judean Hills serve as important green lungs for the residents of Central Israel in general, and the residents of Jerusalem in particular. In 1950, KKL- JNF's director, Yosef Weitz initiated the project to build rural settlements of a new type, which were called work villages. These settlements were established in the mountain regions, which needed to be settled for security and nationalistic reasons. KKL- JNF hired the first settlers in these settlements to work on land reclamation and afforestation projects; and this also served as the main source of livelihood for the local residents and a place where new and older immigrants could meet.

### The Judean Desert

The meaning of the word desert in the bible is 'a place where one goes to take the sheep to pasture'. The botanical definition of desert is: "an area, of which 10% is covered by vegetation." A rain shadow desert refers to the definition of the word desert in a different way: the term refers to the fact that the region is located between two high areas (the eastern side of the Jordan River and the Judean Hills) where large quantities of rain fall. When the clouds reach the Judean Hills region, they heat up as a result of the extreme differences in height; and consequently, the quantity of precipitation in the region is low. The desert spans from the east to the Judean Hills, between the mountains and the Dead Sea Valley. In the east, the desert is delineated by the Matzok He'etekim cliff, where some of Israel's most beautiful

streams flow between the rocks. During the fall and winter seasons, the region experiences a great deal of flooding. Throughout history, this difficult region was a sanctuary for rebels and refugees, starting with King David, who fled from King Saul, as well as solitary monks during the Byzantine Period. The main settlement area in the region was Ein Gedi, which grew persimmons. When the State of Israel was established, the region was under Jordanian rule and it was liberated during the Six Day War.

### **The Hills of Samaria**

Part of Israel's main mountain ridge, named after the city of Samaria, which served as the capital of the Kingdom of Israel in ancient times. During the time of the Bible, this area was an important crossroads. After the area's residents were exiled, the city's population consisted of members of the Samaritan faith. Since the Six Day War, this region is located beyond the Green Line. Currently, this region consists of the large Arab cities of Nablus, Kalkilya, Tul Karem and Jenin, as well as various Jewish settlements, the largest of which is the city of Ariel.

### **The Shfela**

A transitional region between the Coastal Plains and the Judean Hills. The Shfela is built primarily of soft chalky rocks, covered with a chalky crust known as calcrete. Most of the region is covered with Mediterranean groves, and diverse animal life. During the Biblical period, the region was under the rule of different nations, and was always plagued by struggles. The Shfela region played an important role during the period of the Bar Cochba revolt. In a certain stage of the revolt, the rebels had full control over Judea and the Shfela. Currently, the main cities of the Shfela are: Ramle, Nes Tziona, Rehovot and Beit Shemesh.

In the Shfela region, a number of park and forests were established that serve as active recreation sites for Israel's

residents. One of the largest sites is Park Britannia, established by KKL-JNF in the 1950s, with the assistance of the British Jewish community. Ben Shemen Forest, one of the largest forests, is located in this area and is called the Green Lung of the Gush Dan Region. The Ben Shemen Forest, whose land was purchased in 1905, is the oldest forest planted by KKL-JNF. Three years later, olive trees were planted in this area in memory of Binyamin Zeev Herzl.

### **The Beit Shean Valley**

A low valley situated on the Syrian-African rift, bordering the Gilboa mountains in the west, the Jordan River in the east, the Lower Galilee Heights in the north and the Jordan Valley in the south. The climate in this region is very hot and humid during the summer months. Settlement in this region began with the establishment of the Old City of Beit Shean, whose spectacular archeological site is open to the public. During the period of the Ottoman Empire, the valley railway was operated as part of the Hejaz railway system that connected Haifa to Tzemach and from there to Damascus in Syria. The Naharayim Station on this train route, broke a record as the lowest train station in the world, some 246 meters below sea level.

### **The Negev**

A desert region that covers more than half of the area of the State of Israel. Its northern border was set based on the average quantity of precipitation – the line in which an average of 200 mm. of rain falls each year. The Beer Sheva Valley lies in its northern area; in its center, are the Negev Mountain and Ramat Ha'negev, and in the south, are the Eilat mountains. The Arava borders the Negev in the east. Most of the Negev's streams are seasonal streams, with floodwater flowing through them during the rainy season. The city of Beer Sheva is considered the capital of the Negev and the

# Information Manual

largest city in the region.

The State of Israel does not have an abundance of water sources. KKL- JNF's work in the Negev contributes to the enhancement of Israel's water economy and expands possibilities for settlement, agriculture and tourism. During the first decade following the establishment of the State of Israel, KKL- JNF was a partner in planning the Yarkon Negev Water Line, which was inaugurated in 1955, and which began to convey water from the National Water Carrier in 1964. Since the early 1990s, KKL- JNF has worked on the Action Plan: Negev Project. The construction of water reservoirs to store the floodwater and infiltrating the water into the groundwater is only one of the steps designed to develop and settle the were moved from the Coastal Plain to the Western Negev (mainly to the Besor Region).

As part of KKL- JNF's steps to stem desertification, Limans were constructed on the sides of the Negev roads for planting. A liman is a landform that stores floodwater by means of a dam in a gully or riverbed, which stores rainwater in regions with arid climates. At its base, small groves are planted to diversify the landscape. The name liman comes from the Greek and means port - a low place that stores the water. The limans serve a number of purposes: for grazing and shade for flocks of sheep; a place for flocks of migratory birds to rest; a resting place for IDF soldiers during their training exercises; as well as a recreation areas for hikers. KKL- JNF set up picnic tables and garbage cans for hikers at accessible limans.

## **The Arava**

A narrow, long valley that spans from the southern portion of the Dead Sea to the Eilat Bay and divides the Red Mountains from the Negev Mountain. The Arava Road passes through the border between Israel and Jordan. This is a dry desert region with limited water sources. In ancient times, the Arava

served as a transitional area, through which Nabatean spice routes led merchants from Saudi Arabia to the sea. Today's sophisticated and intelligent agriculture in the arid Arava is, to a great extent, the result of the agricultural research and development centers, which KKL- JNF is a partner in operating.

The research and development stations are involved in the development of new crops and in executing technological improvements for the existing crops. The R&D stations help farmers in the Negev and the Galilee meet the competitive standards of the global markets and improve their economic profitability. The Arava is a well-known commodity, thanks to its advanced agricultural exports, which utilize ecological growing methods: biological pest control and brackish water irrigation. These are the result of research conducted by the experimental station known as the Yair Central Arava Center for Research and Development, one of three research centers run by the Arava Research and Development Center (an extension of the Ben Gurion University's Institute for the Study of Desertification), with receives the assistance and funding of KKL- JNF, the ICA Foundation and the Plant Council.

## **The Upper Galilee**

The section of the Galilee located north of the Beit Hakerem Valley is known as the Upper Galilee. This is a mountainous region, made up of high mountain ridges and narrow deep valleys. Its highest peak is Mount Meron. The Upper Galilee, with its high mountains, has been less populated than the Lower Galilee throughout history. During the Hasmonean Period and onward, the Upper Galilee became the center for Jewish zealots. The cities of Safed and Tiberias were pilgrimage sites and became primarily Jewish cities. In 1882, Rosh Pina was established, followed by Yesod Ha'maala – the first Jewish settlements in the Galilee.

On the 11th of Adar, 1946, members of the youth movements, workers and discharged soldiers went up to the settlement of Biria in the Galilee, built on KKL- JNF land, against the wishes of the British. This was one of the most famous settlement campaigns during the period preceding the establishment of the state.

Today, the Biria Forest is the largest planted forest in the Galilee. In the center of the forest is the Biria Fortress, a site that symbolizes the struggle of the Jewish people to settle its land. During the Second Lebanon War, the region was hit and was rehabilitated based on sustainable development principles: the ecological, social-cultural, economic and intergenerational principles. This means the protection of the forest resources for the benefit of future generations, enhancing them based on natural renewal processes and managing them so they will support the variety of flora and fauna and the community and society.

### **The Lower Galilee**

The section of the Galilee that is south of the Beit Hakerem Valley is known as the Lower Galilee. Its mountains are more rounded and their peaks are lower than those of the Upper Galilee (around 500 meters). It is mostly covered with oak forests.

During the War of Independence, the Galilee region was liberated as part of Operation Hiram. Since then, a strong effort has been made to settle this area with Jews and to sustain a Jewish majority. During the 1980s, a project was launched to settle the hilltop settlements of the Galilee, designed to attract a younger population to dozens of new settlements.

One of the largest projects currently conducted by KKL- JNF in the region is the process of transporting treated wastewater from Tiberias and Nazareth to the Sharona Reservoir in the Lower Galilee. The reservoir will store four

million cubic meters of water each year, and will become Israel's largest agricultural water reservoir. The Galilee is considered Israel's largest reserve of open areas.

### **Mount Carmel**

A mountain ridge that spans from the northern hills of Samaria to the Haifa Bay. The height of the highest peak is 525 meters above sea level. It is triangular in shape and it is located between the Jezreel Valley, Zevulun Valley, the Coastal Plan and Ramot Menashe. The Carmel symbolizes the beauty and majesty of days of old and is known as the Mountain that is Always Green, due to the Mediterranean grove that covers its slopes. There are those who claim that the root of the name Carmel comes from the combination of words – Kerem (vineyard) and El – God. Over 80,000 dunams of the Carmel's land was declared a national park, of which 24,000 dunams are nature reserves. Projects to acclimatize and free the wild animals of the Carmel, such as the Hai Bar, are designed to bring back animals that are becoming extinct that once lived in this region, such as vultures and fallow deer.

Since the period of prehistoric man, the Carmel has been settled and this is where Elijah the Prophet confronted the prophets of the Baal, as described in the Bible.

KKL- JNF has planted some 30,000 dunams of forest, with recreation areas and scenic routes and it maintains and cares for extensive areas of natural groves in the region.

### **Mount Hermon**

The highest mountain in the State of Israel, situated on its northern border. The height of its highest peak, located within Israel's borders, is 2,236 meters above sea level. Mount Hermon is characterized by extreme weather conditions, that range from freezing point temperatures

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in the winter months to 30 degrees Celsius in the summer. Mount Hermon is a narrow and long ridge of chalky rocks (part of the mountain ridge facing Lebanon) and it is covered in snow in winter. Most of the mountain's area in Israel has been declared a nature reserve. The nature reserve features some of the largest oak trees in Israel and flora and fauna unique to high mountains areas.

## **The Golan**

A high and flat region in Northern Israel, located between Mount Hermon in the north and the Yarmoch River in the south, with the Israel Syrian border, delineated during the Six Day War and later during the Yom Kippur War, running through it. The many streams in the Golan Heights supply about one third of the water of the Sea of Galilee. The population in the Golan is comprised of Jews, Arabs, Druze and Circassians. The Mediterranean climate and the soil are primarily a result of the ancient volcanic activity in the region.

## **The Sea of Galilee**

A freshwater lake that supplies about one third of Israel's water used for drinking and agriculture. This is the lowest freshwater lake in the world, located 201 meters below sea level. The sea level varies based on the balance between the quantity of annual rainfall, the pumping of water from the Sea of Galilee and the water's evaporation. The maximum depth of the Sea of Galilee is 43 meters and it spans 165 square kilometers. The water that flows to the Sea of Galilee from the Jordan River and the northern streams is pumped by the National Water Carrier. Before the establishment of the State of Israel, the first agricultural farm was built in this area – known as the Kineret Farm, as well as the very first kibbutz – Degania. The first section of the bicycle path that surrounds the lake was completed by KKL- JNF in 2008. The path begins at Kibbutz Maagan and is planned to

reach the Shizaf - Rotem beach. The paved section is part of a long-term plan to build bicycle and walking paths that surround the lake. The winding path between the tree lined streets make the riding or walking experience a safe sport, combined with a beautiful scenic trip through nature.

## **The Dead Sea**

A salt lake at the edge of the Judean Desert located along the Syria-African Rift. The beaches of the Dead Sea are the lowest land mass in the world and the salinity of the water is second only to Lake Assal in Djibouti – with a rate of 34%. In the area of the Dead Sea, a constant struggle is waged in three fields: Industry – the Dead Sea Works pumps its water into evaporation pools and produces various minerals and salts; Tourism – hotels flourish and succeed here and there are cosmetics factories that specialize in internationally famous healing and spa treatments; Nature Preservation – as it is the only one of its kind in the world, and in light of the great interest in the Dead Sea, this area is involved in constant struggles for preservation. The surface level of the Dead Sea is steadily falling; and since the 1970s, it has fallen by 20 meters, as a result of the pumping of water from the Jordan River, industrial and tourism use of the water and natural evaporation. Currently, the Dead Sea is in danger of disappearing completely, and its area is continually decreasing. One of the solutions proposed for preventing the drying up of the Dead Sea is the Med to Dead Canal, which will transfer salt water from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea. The cost effectiveness of this idea is currently being reconsidered, after having been deferred in the past.

## **The Mediterranean Sea**

The Mediterranean Sea is located between the continents of Africa, Europe and Asia and connects with the Atlantic Ocean in the west, the Black Sea in the east and the Red Sea in the south. The major difference between the ocean to the

Mediterranean Sea is that the Mediterranean is generally quiet, its waves are low and its tide cycles are relatively weak. Throughout history, the Mediterranean Sea has served as a significant transportation artery for the transfer of merchandise and it connected people of different cultures who lived on its shores. The sea off the coast of Israel is especially poor in fish because of Israel's small quantity of rainfall which is concentrated in a short season, so the amount of nutrient rich water flowing into the sea is low. The small fisherman's port in Jaffa served people arriving in Israel until the beginning of the 20th century. Subsequently, and until the mid-1950s, the Tel Aviv Port was active. In Haifa, the port has operated since the 14th century B.C. The new port in Haifa was opened in the 1930s and served the British during the Second World War. The State of Israel opened the Ashdod Port in 1966, and in 2000, Israel's most modern and sophisticated new port was opened in Ashdod.

### **The Jezreel Valley**

A large fertile valley that is located between the Lower Galilee in the north and the Hills of Samaria in the south. Throughout history, the lands of the valley were considered the most fertile in Israel. Here, on the land of the Jezreel Valley, Navot grew his vineyard, near King Ahab's place, which the king coveted for himself. In 1891, Yehoshua Hankin began to purchase the lands of the valley for KKL- JNF, despite the ban imposed by the Ottomans on Jewish immigration. Over the years, Hankin purchased more and more lands and redeemed the valley from foreigners, in order to settle this area and fill it with Jewish agriculture. Today, the Jezreel Valley is flourishing and boasts settlements of all kinds – moshavim like Nahalal, kibbutzim like Ein Harod, etc.



## **RIVERS**

### **The Yarkon River**

28 kilometers in length, the Yarkon River once had the largest capacity of the Coastal Plain's rivers. Throughout history, its water was drawn for agriculture, and flour mills were built along the riverbed. During the 1930s, the British built the Yarkon – Jerusalem Water Extraction Pipeline, which pumped water from the Yarkon to Jerusalem via Shaar Hagai. In 1955, Yarkon Negev Project was initiated to supply water to the residents of the Negev from the Yarkon River. In the 1960s, almost all of the river's water had been extracted by this project; and concurrently, there was a tremendous wave of construction in the area, leading to the pollution of the river, turning it into a severe sanitation hazard. At the end of the 1980s, a decision was made to rehabilitate the river. Currently, the upper portion of the Yarkon has been rehabilitated. Along the river are historical and archeological sites. Its central polluted section became famous after the Maccabiah disaster and the bottom section is mixed with seawater and periodically becomes polluted as a result of the water flow from the central section.

### **The Taninim River**

A 25-kilometer long perennial stream that flows from Ramot Menashe to the Mediterranean Sea and empties into the sea near Kibbutz Maagan Michael. A system of dams and channels and an aqueduct from the Byzantine/Roman period that passed near the river served to bring water to the city of Caesarea, for irrigation and to operate flour mills. In ancient time, crocodiles lived in the river and in the nearby Kebara swamp, thus giving it its name (the Hebrew word for crocodile is tanin). Settlements built at the beginning of the 20th century are located in the area of the river, which included the draining of the swamps in Kebara and the

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settlement and agricultural projects of the Baron Rothschild. The ancient water projects and flour mills were mostly rehabilitated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection; and in 2004, a lake was built, designed to operate the ancient waterworks; and today, some can be seen in operation.

## The Alexander River

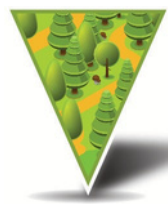
The Alexander River is a perennial stream that runs 32 km and is one of the largest streams in the Sharon Region. It was named after the Hasmonean King Alexander Yanai, (as was the nearby Kibbutz Beit Yanai). This stream undermines the Hefer Valley, which in the past was covered with swamps that were drained at the beginning of the Jewish settlement in the 1930s. The creek was widened in the 1960s in order to prevent flooding. Up until a few years ago, the river was severely polluted from the factory, domestic and agricultural sewage and refuse. The flora and fauna were injured and the river became a public health hazard. In 1994, an administration was established to rehabilitate the river, in collaboration with KKL- JNF. Today, despite the fact that the river's water comes from different sources such as groundwater, water from the nearby fish ponds, drainage water from the fields and treated wastewater, the area has become a real gem and the pollution has been cleaned up.

## The Jordan River

The Jordan River traverses the Syrian African Rift that runs the length of the country. The winding Jordan River is 250 kilometers in length. The source of most of the river's water is the rain and snow that fall on Mount Hermon. The three main streams that flow into the Jordan are the Dan, Hermon and Snir. The northern section of the river is called the Jordan Highland, due to the mountainous terrain through which it flows. The Jordan is mentioned often in the Bible and in the New Testament and is considered a holy site by Christians. The establishment of the National Water Carrier in

the 1960s and reservoirs on the Yarmoch River on the Syrian side, have led to the depletion of the water sources of the Jordan south of the Sea of Galilee, which has had a difficult impact on the environment and the water level of the Dead Sea.

KKL- JNF operates the Jordan Park, which spans 1,000 dunams and is located in the northeast corner of the Sea of Galilee, adjacent to the eastern channel of the Jordan River, one of its main channels. The park features a variety of leisure areas and facilities, including marked trails, an ancient flour mill with aqueduct and pools, the archeological site of Bethsaida, kayaks and innertubes, lawns, picnic tables, beautiful spots along the river's tributaries, water faucets, playgrounds, kiosks and public restrooms.



## FORESTS AND PARKS

### The Ben Shemen Forest

One of Israel's largest forests, spanning 21 thousand dunams, east of the city of Lod. The land was purchased by KKL- JNF by Eliahu Sapir and Yehoshua Hankin in 1905, and a factory for producing oil was built on 100 dunams of this area, which is how the forest got its name. The name Ben Shemen also refers to the Biblical vineyard of the prophet Isaiah ("My well-beloved had a vineyard in a very fruitful hill"). The factory was burnt down in 1915, and the company that owned it established the Shemen Oil Factory that exists to this day. KKL- JNF first planted olive trees in the Ben Shemen Forest; however, this was unsuccessful and KKL- JNF replaced them with pine trees and cypress trees, in areas that are not suitable for agricultural work. Today, the area of the Ben Shemen Forest, which mainly features pine trees, also offers leisure facilities and is a recreational and leisure area for many Israelis. KKL- JNF takes care of the forest and

also plants broadleaf and deciduous trees and Israeli groves.

The Ben Shemen Forest's scenic trails are well signed for visitors and lead to a variety of views and sites. One of them, the Electricity Trail, got its name from the electricity that runs through the length of the forest. In 1992, KKL- JNF built a sculpture garden on the side of this trail. In addition to the sculptures, this area also features a sculpture playground made of steel and stone, which adds a special aspect to the forest. Another recreation area in the forest is called the Morris Kaufman Recreation Area for the Blind, designed for the visually impaired. This recreation area was built with the assistance of the American Friends of KKL- JNF and allows the visually impaired visitors to visit this area on their own and learn about the surrounding using their other senses.

### **The Yatir Forest**

This is an enormous forest located on the lower slopes of the Hebron hills on the edge of the desert. The forest spans some 40,000 dunams. Against all odds, and despite the desert climate, KKL- JNF foresters succeeded in planting in this region, starting in 1964. The forest features the archeological ruins of the Biblical Levite city of Yatir, which the forest is named after. The forest boasts conifer and broadleaf, orchard, eucalyptus and acacia trees, wine vineyards and various shrubs. In recent years, KKL- JNF has developed scenic roads and hiking trails, archeological sites and picnic areas that are accessible to the public at large. The forest creates a green lung for the residents of the region. Recently, KKL- JNF has built a visitors' hospitality and information center at the Foresters' House, which is open 24 hours a day, and is free of charge to those hikers on the Israel Trail.

Professor Dan Yakir of the Weizmann Institute heads up the research activity in the Yatir Forest, in collaboration with researchers from other institutions. The goal of the research is to create reciprocal relationships between the forest

and its surroundings. The research is part of the Fluxnet Network – a NASA research project, which studies the exchanges of carbon dioxide, water vapor and energy between terrestrial ecosystems and the atmosphere around the world. Since 2000, the Yatir Forest has become a real 'laboratory', with a state-of-the-art monitoring station that examines the natural data: precipitation and humidity, tree growth and activity mechanisms, gas emission from the trees, the composition of the air and many other data. The 'unnatural' location of the forest makes the results of this research even more significant. One of the main indices examined in the research is the scope of the absorption of air's carbon dioxide. This is important in light of the fact that the quantity of annual precipitation in the forest has gradually decreased from 350 to only 300 millimeters per year and the quantity of the carbon compounds in the air have increased at the same time. This study is the only one in recent years to examine all aspects of the forest's functioning, both in terms of the ecological aspect and its aspect of independent functioning.

### **The Biria Forest**

The Biria Forest is the largest planted forest in the Galilee. It spans 20 thousand dunams from Safed to Rosh Pina and the Dalton and Amud Rivers. The vast majority of the forest is comprised of Jerusalem pine trees; however, KKL- JNF has added other pine trees, including the Brutia and Canary pines, as well as the Atlantic cedar trees. Inside the forest, various sites, orchards, springs an ancient synagogue, the tombs of the Sages, etc. can be found. Among the forest's historical sites is the Biria Fortress, which is currently a museum of the history of the region and is dedicated to the pilgrimage to Biria in 1946. The forest also features the remains of the ancient Jewish settlement of Naburiya, including an ancient synagogue and the tombs of Rabbi Yaakov Ish Naburiya and Elazar Ha'modai. There are natural

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springs – Ein Naburia, Ein Yavnit, Ein Margalit and Ein Gever. The tomb of Rabbi Yonatan Ben Uziel is located in the vicinity of the forest. Many believe that a visit to this tomb is a good omen for finding a spouse. The forest features hiking trails, a horse ranch, lookouts, picnic areas and facilities with a variety of hiking and leisure activities.

The land was purchased in 1908 by Baron Rothschild; however, following the settlement's failure in 1922, the area was transferred to KKL- JNF. In the center of the forest stands the Biria Fortress, built by the religious unit of the Palmach in 1945. Near the fortress is a water reservoir that supplied all the water consumption in the area. The fortress' observation towers served to connect the Jewish settlement in Safed to the Haganah's Upper Galilee Headquarters in Ayelet Hashachar. The people of Biria helped smuggle Jews out of Syria to Israel. After the British revealed that there were two caches of weapons in the fortress, they detained its people and banned settlement in the area. In a special campaign, 3,000 members of youth movements and the Haganah went up to Biria. They too were evacuated by force by the British. A third attempt to reach the fortress was a success. The British succumbed and allowed the settlers to remain in the fortress for two more months. The upper mountain, where the fortress is built is called the Mountain of the Bold, in memory of the settlers. The fortress has become a fascinating museum that documents the history of the site. KKL- JNF has built many recreation areas in the forest, paved a scenic route that traverses the length of the forest and has prepared three hiking trails.

Tourism is an important industry for employment. It opens the rural and urban settlements to the public at large and transforms them from residential areas to an interesting area for recreation. The land of Israel was blessed with a wide variety of natural resources and landscape, as well as

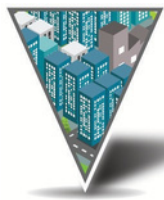
unique historical sites. KKL- JNF works to develop tourism, primarily sites with historical value as well as nature and scenic sites. KKL- JNF paves the way for interesting sites, getting them ready for visits by the public at large, creating a green backdrop and plenty of shade, and preserves the soil and the environment and emphasizes the local unique qualities. In recent years, KKL- JNF has become a partner in the planning and execution of projects and parks that serve as catalysts of change, including those that are accessible to people with physical disabilities and visual impairments. KKL- JNF's afforestation division directs a great deal of resources to promoting and improving the forest as a place for recreation and leisure. The practical expression of this policy is the preparation of the forest to receive the public. Clear signs, paving convenient bicycle and walking paths and operating recreation areas featuring playground equipment, picnic tables, hiking paths and observation towers, all create a forest that is more pleasant and accessible to all its visitors.

## **Agamon Hula Lake Park**

KKL- JNF's largest project in its sixth decade was draining the swamps of the Hula and restoring the muddy land of the valley to be used as agricultural land. In 1993, KKL- JNF returned to the Hula Valley and reflooded 1,000 of its dunams. The result was a flourishing valley, which once again became an area for birds and vegetation. The roads that were opened surrounding the lake have attracted many tourists to the area, and achieved the main objective – preventing the pollution of the Sea of Galilee.

Currently, the Agamon Hula Park is a place where birds can be observed on their way from Europe to Africa, as well as view the water buffalo and other wild animals, and enjoy the unique vegetation and animals of this region. Creation of this lake also promotes environmental protection efforts. The Hula also features another significant body of water that is used by the migratory birds. In the future, KKL- JNF will flood

another section of the Hula that will serve as an additional barrier to protect the quality of the water of the Sea of Galilee and help develop tourism in Northern Israel. To avoid harming the park's ecological balance, entrance of private vehicles is prohibited. You may visit the park on a bicycle or use the special golf carts available to visitors.



## CITIES

### Jerusalem

Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and its largest city (as of 2008 – 753,000 residents). Jerusalem is located in the heart of the Judean Hills, on the main

national watershed line. The city is considered holy by three major religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam; and due to its religious role, it has always been the focus of disputes and conflicts. At the end of the 19th century, construction of new houses began in the new city, surrounding the Old City, and the new section of the city has grown over the years and is currently the largest section of Jerusalem. In 1981, the Old City was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

### Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv–Jaffa is Israel's second largest city (as of 2008 – 391,300 residents). This is Israel's First Hebrew City – because it was the first city established by the Zionist movement outside of the Old Yishuv and the moshavot. Tel Aviv was established in 1909 as a neighborhood called Ahuzat Bayit, in order to establish the first Hebrew city adjacent to the Arab city of Jaffa. Tel Aviv is Israel's economic and banking center, and is home to the stock exchange, various embassies, the largest national newspapers, etc. The hi-tech industry is located mainly in the Gush Dan region.

### Beer Sheva

Beer Sheva, the capital of the Negev, is Israel's seventh largest city in terms of population and the second largest in terms of area. Its name originates from the Book of Genesis, and was the place where a covenant was forged between Abraham and Avimelech the King of Grar. After Beer Sheva was captured during the War of Independence, the houses were inhabited by Jews. In the 1950s, construction began in the new city north of the Turkish town and Beer Sheva was declared a city by Golda Meir, who was the Minister of Labor at the time. The city is built as a garden suburb; however, the desert conditions are more suitable to the hi-rise buildings that were built later on. In the 1990s, many new immigrants from Russia and the Former Soviet Union moved here and the city grew significantly. Beer Sheva is home to Ben Gurion University, Soroka Hospital, and there is a court, Bedouin market, etc.

### Haifa

Haifa is the capital of Northern Israel and its third largest city (as of 2008 – 265,000 residents). Haifa has functioned as a port city since the 3rd century B.C.E.; and today, the Haifa Port is the most important of Israel's three ports. Haifa boasts diverse and unique landscapes due to its proximity to the natural bay, coast, and the Carmel Mountain. The Haifa Bay is Israel's only natural bay and the Carmel Park is one of the country's most important and largest green lungs.

During the War of Independence, the Arab residents of Haifa surrendered to the members of the Haganah and their homes were inhabited by Jewish new immigrants. Haifa was the last place in Israel to be evacuated by the British Mandate. With the mass immigration in the 1950s, Haifa expanded even further. Haifa is an integrated city and a symbol of Jewish – Arab coexistence. Haifa is home to the Technion, Haifa University, the Haifa Port and the Baha'i Gardens. The city boasts all forms of transportation: an airport, trains, cable car, port and the Carmelit (an underground funicular railway).

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## **Safed**

Safed is the capital of the Upper Galilee and is one of Israel's four holy cities and Israel's highest city (soaring to 925 meters). As of 2008, its population was 28,700 residents. Most of the Jews of the Old Jewish Settlement in the north lived in Safed, since the end of the Middle Ages until the 19th century. At the end of the British Mandate, the British gave Safed to the Arabs, and the Jewish city was placed under siege and was liberated only following fierce battles. After it was liberated, the city was populated by new immigrants and its unique artist colony was established. Thanks to a unique mix of art, religious importance, landscape and climate, Safed has become a flourishing tourist center.

## **Tiberias**

This holy city is located on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. The population of Tiberias (as of 2008) is 39,700 residents. The city was built by Herod Antipas and is named after Tiberias Caesar, who ruled in 29 B.C.E. The Jerusalem Talmud was compiled here and the city has always served as an important religious center. Tiberias is the lowest city in the world – 212 meters below sea level. It features many archeological sites from the Roman and Byzantine Periods and tombs of the Sages. Its residents currently work in the tourism industry.

## **Hebron**

This holy city is also called the City of the Forefathers and it is situated in the center of the hills of Hebron, south of Jerusalem. One of the oldest cities in the world that have been continuously populated. Its population is 167,000 Palestinian residents, most of whom live under Palestinian rule; however, there are a number of Jewish neighborhoods that live under the control of the State of Israel and are protected by the IDF. Hebron is home to the Cave of the

Forefathers (Maarat Hamachpela), where according to tradition, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca and Jacob and Leah are buried. Hebron was a large Jewish center and was once the capital of the Israel Empire, during the Biblical period. The Jews of Hebron were expelled and slaughtered during the massacres of 1929 and 1936 and finally left the city with the establishment of the State of Israel until the end of the 1960s. Following the Six Day War, when the city was liberated, some of the Jewish neighborhoods were settled and they remain a bone of contention between the Jews and Palestinians. Adjacent to Hebron is the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, which was another name for Hebron in ancient times.

## **Eilat**

Eilat is Israel's southernmost city, with 47,000 residents. During Biblical times, the city was known as Etzion Gaver and served as a port city and a center of the copper trade. The raising of the Ink Flag (a flag drawn by soldiers) on the police station of Um Rashrash in 1949 marked the end of the War of Independence. At the beginning of the 1950s, a small settlement was established comprised mainly of people working in the port, army personnel and released prisoners. It was a long and difficult trip to reach the city via Mitzpeh Ramon. After the Sinai Campaign and the opening of the airport, which made the trip to the city much easier, Eilat began to develop as a port city and tourist center. Today, there is a constant struggle between preservation vs. development, nature and environment vs. the port, hotels and tourist and leisure facilities. Holland Forest is located at the entrance to the city. This is a forest and a desert park with trees suitable to the surroundings. Another green corner is the Birdwatching Park, which KKL- JNF helped develop and build.

## Kiryat Shmona

Kiryat Shmona is Israel's northernmost city with 24,000 residents. It is named after the eight fighters that were killed in the battle for the nearby town of Tel Hai.

It was established in 1949, at first as a transit camp on the land of an Arab Village known as al-Khalisa, whose residents fled during the War of Independence. It was settled by immigrants from Yemen and Romania and later many from North Africa. The city was built without a master plan, rather one neighborhood after another, as the waves of immigration arrived. Kiryat Shmona is the largest city in Galilee Panhandle and is situated along Route 90, making it the regional center for the settlements in the vicinity in a number of fields, such as: specialized medical services, industry, business services and commerce. Since the 1960s, due to its location close to the border between Israel and Lebanon, the city has suffered from terrorist attacks from terrorists who smuggled across the border and Katyusha rocket fire in the 1990s. 6,000 immigrants from the Former Soviet Union have settled in Kiryat Shmona.

## Yeruham

Yeruham is a regional council south of Beer Sheva. It was established at first as a transit camp for new immigrants from Romania in 1950, who were later joined by new immigrants from Morocco, Persia and India; and together with the Romanians, they created a diverse settlement. The transit camp was built close to the Petroleum Road between Maale Akrabim and Beer Sheva, in Ramat Hanegev. In 1959, the transit camp was dismantled and in its stead a permanent settlement was established as a regional council. During the 1960s, many young people left the settlement; and for many years, it suffered from negative immigration. In the 1970s, Ultraorthodox and National Religious families came to Yeruham, who considered the settlement of the Negev the fulfillment of the Zionist

dream. At the end of the 1970s, a group of religious Zionist families who immigrated from countries around the world arrived and established a college of art and Judaism. These groups brought religious diversity to the city. Since 1986, Bnei Akiva NAHAL groups have been stationed in Yeruham, and many of their members have settled here. Some years later, a successful Hesder Yeshiva was established here that has attracted hundreds of students, some of whom have settled here as well. In the 1990s, new immigrants from the Soviet Union moved here and the settlement grew. They were joined by a few new immigrants from the UK and US. Today, about half of the residents are North African in origin, a quarter of them are from the Former Soviet Union and the rest are from western Europe and the U.S.



## RESERVOIRS

### Background

Israel's water economy is influenced, first and foremost, by the fact that most of the country's land is located in the desert. In ancient times, man only settled near sources of water. Today, in the age of modern technology, one does not need to live near to water sources; nevertheless, almost all of Israel's residents are concentrated in the northern section of the country, where the climate is Mediterranean in nature. The UN indices have determined that there is a severe water shortage in Israel. KKL- JNF considers the development of agriculture in Israel of utmost importance, not only in order to grow food, but also to maintain Israel's open landscape and views. Consequently, the subject of developing water reservoirs for agriculture has been given top priority on KKL- JNF's agenda. KKL- JNF's development of water reservoirs became a permanent

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subject at the beginning of the 1990s in Beit Shean. The importance of this activity is that KKL- JNF collects and stores marginal water. If not for the KKL- JNF's activities, this water would have not been available to Israel's water economy. Over 80% of the water sources that KKL- JNF develops are reclaimed water (wastewater) at different levels of purification, and the rest is floodwater. Another direction developed by KKL- JNF are the reservoirs in southern Israel – in the Negev and the Arava – where the water shortage is more severe. Currently, some 20 million cubic meters of water collected in Israel annually is floodwater, this amount will meet the consumption needs of 200,000 residents each year. The water is stored in the reservoirs, and infiltrated into the ground where it is pumped by drills to be used during the months with peak demand. KKL- JNF plays a prominent role in the development of this water source. The KKL- JNF reservoirs currently provide a good alternative to potable water for agriculture and have eased the crisis in Israel's water economy; and together with other large projects with which KKL- JNF collaborates, it rehabilitates Israel's streams and water-based nature reserves, such as the Hula Valley.

The establishment of the reservoirs is of national importance of the highest level. In Israel, every farmer pays considerable sums for water consumption to irrigate his crops. Sometimes, due to the price of the water, it is not cost effective to grow certain crops. The building of the reservoirs for the harvesting of water (SHAFDAN Water, floodwater and desalinated water) for irrigating crops during the summer months, may solve the agricultural difficulty and contribute to the growth of the Negev. In general, there is no need to artificially seal the reservoirs, because after several floods, the sediment deposits seal them.

By building reservoirs in the Negev, KKL- JNF has ensured that every 1.0 million cubic meters that are collected in the

reservoir are sufficient to irrigate 1,000 dunams of orchards per year, and free up a similar quantity of drinking water for domestic consumption of 10,000 people. Reservoirs also play a role in the collection of wastewater, which ecologically contributes to the interface of Israel's wastewater disposal system and to increasing the Negev's water potential. KKL- JNF is also engaged in the establishment of wastewater treatment plants for agriculture and in the development of streams.

## **The Gesher Reservoir**

Gesher is one of KKL- JNF's reservoirs in the Beit Shean Valley. This reservoir is designated to harvest unutilized runoff from the Sea of Galilee and the Yarmoch River, which otherwise flows into the Jordan. The reservoir is used by Kibbutz Gesher and the nearby settlements for irrigation, fishing and tourism. During migration season, many water fowl can be seen around the reservoir.

## **The Besor Reservoir**

One of the chain of huge reservoirs in Nahal Besor constructed by KKL- JNF in 1996 as part of its Action: Negev Project, in order to harvest winter floodwater and infiltrate it into the groundwater. The Besor Reservoir, together with the two nearby reservoirs, Upper and Lower Rehovot, can collect about 7 million cubic meters of water. In dry years, they can be filled with treated wastewater from Gush Dan. The Besor Reservoirs are another link in the development of the Negev's agriculture. The water enables the utilization of the land for crops such as orchards, which until now, were only grown in central Israel due to irrigation constraints.

## **THE FOUR HOLY CITIES**

### **Background**

"The term 'Four Holy Cities' refers to Israel's four cities,

Jerusalem, Hebron, Tiberias and Safed. The term was first used in 1640, by the Jewish communities that were supported by a charitable fund, known as the Haluka, a worldwide communal charity run by communities in the Diaspora to support Jewish scholars and the poor living in the Land of Israel. These cities were considered holy, because that is where most of the Jewish settlement lived during most of the exile, and due to their Jewish historical sites and tombs of great Sages in or around these cities, and due to the activity of these figures throughout the generations.

Most of the Jewish population in the Land of Israel lived in these cities, known as the people of the Old Yishuv (settlement), from the end of the Middle Ages until the beginning of the 19th century. Most of these Jewish residents were members of a Collel (religious seminaries for married men) and some were supported by funds from the Haluka that were donated by Diaspora Jews for Jews living in the Land of Israel.



## FIGURES AND SITES THE FIRST MOSHAVOT

### Background

A moshava is a type of rural settlement in Israel, based on private ownership of the land, home and farm. The use of the term moshava to refer to this type of Israeli settlement originates from the Jewish agricultural moshav and moshavot in the southern section of the Russian empire in the 19th century. The beginning of the development of the moshava in the land of Israel was in the 1870s and continued during the periods of the First and Second Aliyah. The moshavot were primarily based on fields of agriculture. Social and cultural life in the moshavot were an important part of the establishment of the Jewish Zionist

settlement of the Land of Israel.

**Petach Tikva**, known as the Mother of the Moshavot, was established in 1878 by members of the Old Yishuv in Jerusalem and Safed. In 1882, immigrants from Eastern Europe, members of Hibbat Zion movement, established the moshavot in **Rishon L'Zion**, **Zichron Yaakov** and **Rosh Pina**. In later years, the members of Hovevei Zion movement rebuilt Petach Tikva and other moshavot including Hadera, Nes Ziona, Gedera and Rehovot.

These settlements, who were known as the 'moshava farmers', opened a new chapter in the history of Israeli settlement. They were the first to fulfill the dream of national renaissance in the spirit of the Zionist leaders of Europe – creative life in the Land of Israel based on rural living and agriculture. Their immigration is called the First Aliyah, even though many Jews had immigrated before them. This pioneer settlement enterprise was not a financial success. The harsh climate and difficult soil, the lack of farming experience of the settlers, a failing system of services and the general hostility on the part of the Ottoman rule made things very difficult for the moshavot and endangered their existence.

The moshavot were saved from economic collapse primarily thanks to the assistance of Baron Edmond James de Rothschild. Rothschild, known as the Well-Known Benefactor, took the moshavot of Hovevei Tzion under his wing. He invested a lot of money in them to develop infrastructure and public services, advanced farming techniques and industry (especially in the wineries). Rothschild also purchased additional land and built new moshavot across the country, including Mazkeret Batya, Ekron, Beer Tuvia and Metulla. Although these moshavot were saved from collapse and even grew and became well established; however, they were forced to pay the price of losing their independence, when they were transferred to the

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management of the Baron's officials. These moshavot were known as the Baron's Moshavot. Over the years, most of the moshavot grew and developed into cities.

Figure: **Rabbi Yoel Moshe Salomon**

1838-1912 – He was an emissary, or SHADAR, traveling to Europe to raise money for the Jews in the Land of Israel, an editor and printer, one of the first to move outside of the Jerusalem's Old City walls and one of the founders of Petach Tikva. He refused to accept the conditions of the Jews of the Old Yishuv - overcrowding, shortages and poverty - as a fact of life and was one of the first pioneers to 'break through the walls' – moving outside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. He opposed the dependence of Jerusalem's Jews on funds of the Haluka, and was a proponent of agricultural settlement in the Land of Israel as an economic and productive base. He expressed these opinions in a newspaper that he founded.

In 1878, Rabbi Salomon was one of the founders of the moshava called Petach Tikva and he settled there. He left Petach Tikva after an outbreak of malaria and established the moshava of Yehud. He lived and worked in Yehud for seven years; and in his later years, he returned to Jerusalem.



## KIBBUTZ

### Background

This cooperative community is unique to Zionism, to Jewish settlement and the State of Israel, and is based on the Zionist aspiration to resettle the Land of Israel

based on socialist values of equality and economic and philosophical cooperation. The kibbutz is generally a small settlement of a few hundred residents, which makes its living from agriculture and industry.

During the period of the Second Aliyah, this cooperative settlement was known as 'kvutza'; and since the beginning

of the 1920s, during the Third Aliyah, it started to be called 'kibbutz'.

The Jews who immigrated during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Aliyot came primarily from Russia and Eastern Europe and they were mostly secular Jews motivated by Jewish ethics and cosmopolitan ideologies such as equality, self-realization and humanism. Similar to the members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Aliyah who preceded them, most of the members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aliyah wanted to become farmers.

During this period, Jews around the world began to insert coins into the KKL- JNF boxes to help purchase land in the Land of Israel.

In 1907, KKL- JNF purchased land east of the Jordan River. This was one of KKL- JNF's first activities. In 1909, a group of Jewish pioneers established a settlement south of the Sea of Galilee, on Arab land known as Um Junieh. Other kibbutzim were built around the Sea of Galilee and in the nearby Jezreel Valley. Their dream was to work for themselves and to reclaim the land. They called their community - Kvutzat Degania – after the five grains (deganim) they grew there. This was the first community that started the kibbutz movement. These kibbutzim began as communities that believed in the complete sharing of property and in equality, both in terms of productivity and consumption, principles that were expressed in a joint dining room, joint children's sleeping arrangements, shared clothing, etc.

At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the kibbutzim underwent a crisis that led to a substantive change in the nature of many of their structure. Alongside the model of the cooperative kibbutz or the traditional kibbutz, in which an equal salary was received by all of the members, other models developed. These included the 'renewed kibbutz' and the 'privatized kibbutz', in which members receive differential salaries, as is accepted in the workforce. Over the years, the percentage

of kibbutz members in the general Israeli population has gradually decreased. Currently, the total number of kibbutz members is less than two percent of Israel's population.

Figure: **Naomi Shemer**

Poetess, composer, songwriter and Israel Prize Laureate, was born in Kvutzat Kineret in July 1930, the daughter of Meir and Rivka Sapir, who moved to Israel in the 1920s and were among the founders of Kvutzat Kineret. There were three children in the Sapir family: Naomi, Ruthie and Yankale. In 1935, when she was 5 years old, Naomi and her mother traveled to Vilna to visit the family. There she met her Aunt Berta, her father's sister and her family. Four years later, the Second World War broke out, during which time the entire family in Europe was destroyed. Naomi's music lessons were encouraged by her mother Rivka, who insisted on her musical education. At age six, the kibbutz received a piano as a gift. Young Naomi used to play the piano and the children would sing along in the dining room and on special holidays.

Despite the opposition of the kibbutz members, Naomi left the kibbutz to study music – after kibbutz member Sarah Meirov intervened saying ‘leave the girl alone, can't you see that this is her destiny.’ Naomi left at the end of the 1940s to study music – first at the Israel Conservatory in Tel Aviv (later known as the Tel Aviv Academy of Music) and later at the Jerusalem Academy of Music. When she completed her studies, Naomi returned to Kineret as a music teacher in the local preschool. Shemer is responsible for writing songs that have become Israeli classics, such as Jerusalem of Gold, the Eucalyptus Grove, Let it Be, For All Those, and Song of the

## Grasses MOSHAV

### Background

A moshav is a form of settlement unique to the State of Israel. It is comprised of a group of residents (mostly farmers)

who live as part of a cooperative economic framework. People participating in the moshav framework are called members. In contrast to the kibbutz framework, the family on a moshav is an independent economic unit that works according to principles of mutual assistance. Each moshav member is allocated a plot, which generally serves for agriculture. Today, in some of the moshavim, there are people who are not members or part of the cooperative framework and they are called residents. The moshav and kibbutz movements are Israel's largest settlement movements

Guiding principles of this type of settlement: the land belongs to the national institutions, it can be leased to a farmer and will be transferred from generation to generation without the possibility of dividing it.

Independent work: In order to prevent a class gap between workers and employees, a rule was passed that forbids the employment of external workers on the farm. This was rule later changed.

A Mixed Agricultural Moshav: Each farm should feature a variety of agricultural fields in order to prevent dependence on one, seasonal branch.

Mutual Responsibility: Moshav members will be responsible for one another, volunteer for public works, and help one another in times of need. They will allow the moshav's committees to use their money (various association taxes) to support moshav members in need.

**Nahalal** is a Workers' Moshav in the northern Jezreel Valley built on KKL- JNF land and it was the first workers' moshav in Israel. It belongs to the moshavim movement and is located in the Jezreel Valley Regional Council. It spans 8,700 dunams with 75 agricultural farms. The first settlers of Nahalal came during the 2nd and 3rd Aliyot, from Eastern Europe. They dreamed of settling the land according to socialist values,

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while maintaining the privacy of the individual and the family unit, in contrast to the kibbutz.

Over the years, many changes have been instituted in Nahalal's organizational structure. The moshav has become less cooperative. The mutual assistance principle was abandoned, with the responsibility for the economic situation transferred to the individual farmer. The cooperative society still exists, but a separate municipal institution was also established. Israel's agricultural difficulties have led many members to turn to other sources of employment; although there are still a relatively large number of active farms in operation. There is a regional elementary school and high school on the moshav, as well as animal food production plants. The moshav is the main supplier of services to the surrounding moshavim and kibbutzim.

### Figure: **Meir Shalev**

Born in 1948, is a writer, journalist, publicist, media critic and playwright. He was born on Moshav Nahalal to poet, teacher and writer Yitzchak Shalev (who was born in Jerusalem) and Bible teacher Batya née Ben Barak of Nahalal. As a young boy, his family moved for a short period of time to Kibbutz Ginossar; and in 1952, the family settled in the Kiryat Moshe neighborhood of Jerusalem. In 1957, the family returned to Nahalal. Shalev studied psychology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Shalev's novels deal with the Israeli experience and focus mainly on the beginning of the Jewish settlement in the land of Israel. Many of the novels are inspired by Jewish sources and relate to Israel's landscape, nature and history. In many of his books feature biographical details related to Shalev and his family as well as the landscapes of his childhood in Jerusalem and Nahalal.

For example, in his book - "Elements of Conjuraton":

"I was ten years old then, living in Nahalal and I faced a big problem: I had reached a stage in which other people also noticed my need for glasses. The truth is that from the day I became knowledgeable, I knew that my vision was not sharp. At first, I thought the world was created blurry. After that I decided that this is how human beings naturally see.

.... I invested most of my time concealing this fact from everyone. However, my shortsightedness gradually became worse. At that time, at the end of the 1950s, glasses were an embarrassment. In general, Nahalal was not the best place for the blind or disabled. Its founders, visionaries, pioneers of the 2nd Aliyah, didn't return to the land of their forefathers in order to give birth to bespectacled children...

Yaakov Maestro called me in for a talk many times and said that in his opinion, I cannot see what is written on the board... He didn't drain the swamps or fight in the Palmach, and in addition to all his other problems, he was Sephardic. Nahalal, one of the crowning jewels of the Zionist dream, did not have patience for people like him. The fact that he brought a group of young orphans with him to Israel, which he had collected after the Holocaust and saved, did not improve his status.

He got straight to the point. And my mother, a proud Nahalal member, told me he was mistaken. Embarrassed, Yaakov, shrunk in his chair, but insisted: the child needs glasses. My mother blushed. She had a certain blush when she was angry. She went to the room next door, and stayed there out of contempt and protest.

My father, on the other hand, had a hard time hiding his happiness. He was a city guy with white skin, right-wing views and most importantly, wore glasses himself. The

fact that he succeeded in ruining the perfect genetics of the first workers' moshav in general and my mother's socialist family in particular, gave him enormous pleasure.

The next day, we traveled to Afula to the eye doctor. The day I got the glasses, I put them in my pocket and went to Yaakov Maestro's house and said to him: "Yaakov (in Nahalal we called our teacher by their first names), in another month the school year will end and I will be returning to Jerusalem." And I asked him to let me not wear the glasses until the end of the year. I promised him I would wear them when I got to Jerusalem...

I still have a hard time with math, but I still can identify a good and kind-hearted teacher, even without my glasses."

(From the book, "Elements of Conjuraction" by Meir Shalev, Am Oved)

## TELAVIV

The city of Tel Aviv, known as the First Hebrew City, was established as part of Binyamin Zeev Herzl's Zionist vision; and it is the biggest and most important city in Israel, after Jerusalem. The neighborhood of Ahuzat Bayit was settled after 60 families approached KKL- JNF in order to receive funds to purchase land outside of the city of Jaffa. Tel Aviv's establishment began on April 11, 1909, the date that the tender for the lots in the neighborhood was held.

Two letters were found in KKL- JNF's files in the Zionist archives that reveal the difficulties in making decisions regarding the planning and construction of Ahuzat Bayit. These letters were written in German by Dr. Arthur Rupin, one of the leaders of Zionist settlement in the Land of Israel, and they were sent to KKL- JNF's management in Cologne. Rupin expressed his concerns that the residents planned to utilize all the land in the neighborhood for housing, leaving

no room for green areas and public buildings. He recommended to KKL- JNF to make the contract conditional on KKL- JNF receiving the building plan for review and approval. In the end, due to the activity of people such as Meir Dizengoff, Akiva Weiss and others, a beautiful neighborhood with gardens was built north of Jaffa, which later became the metropolitan known as Tel Aviv. Israel's first kiosk and cinema were built here. Tel Aviv is also called the City of Gardens and the White City.

Tel Aviv rapidly developed and tripled its population within a few years. Most of the population growth stemmed from the waves of immigration to Israel, from the 3rd Aliyah and mostly from the 4th and 5th Aliyot (1924 – 1939), from western Europe, particularly from Germany. The Germans Jews were bourgeois, people of means with families, who preferred to live in a city rather than in an agricultural settlement. During this period, Tel Aviv had already gained a reputation as a city with a European personality and less as a Middle Eastern city, which reinforced Tel Aviv's appeal in the eyes of these new immigrants.

Since the 1990s, until today, complexes of hi-rise office and apartment buildings have been built which have changed the city's skyline. One of the arguments against building these hi-rises is that they increase the social gaps and attract foreign buyers who don't actually live in them. In the 1990s, the Azrieli Towers Project was built which became one of the symbols of the city and its changing personality.

Figure: **Hannah Rovina**

Was the first lady of Hebrew Theater, a world-famous actress who graced the stages of theaters around the world, and one of the founders of Habima Theater – Israel's National Theater in Tel Aviv. Her love for the Hebrew language attracted Hannah Rovina to the theater and assured her a place centerstage at the Israel theaters for decades of amazing

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acting. Rovina was born in the town of Berezino, in Minsk, Russia. Her father, David Rubin, was an official in a timber company, and her mother, Sarah Rebecca was a seamstress. She studied Hebrew at school, which led her way to the theater. Her teacher, Moshe Rubinchek, included her in amateur plays that he put on in the town to raise money for charity. Her parents did not approve of these plays and they never came to watch her perform.

Hannah played the role of Leah in the play, *The Dybbuk* (1922), which earned her international acclaim. In 1925, Rovina first came to Israel. After a series of performances, she put on with her friends from Moscow, Europe and the U.S., she convinced some of the them to immigrate to Israel and establish a theater there. In 1928, Habima Theater opened in Tel Aviv.

In the 1930s, Rovina was greatly admired by the Israeli public. Rovina performed with Habima almost until the day she died. Her last stage role was the queen mother in *Richard the Third*, however, she didn't even make it to the premiere and backed out due to medical reasons. For many years, she lived on Gordon Street in Tel Aviv; and in her final years she lived in a retirement home in Raanana, where she died at the age of 91, leaving behind a daughter and granddaughter. The day after she died, her casket was placed in Habima Theater in Tel Aviv, where people came to pay their last respects.



## DevelopmentTown

A development town is one a group of towns and cities built in Israel in its periphery during the 1950s, in order to disperse the population throughout the country. Most of the development towns

were built in the Galilee and the Negev, regions with sparse populations in comparison to the densely populated central

Israel and the big city of Jerusalem.

Development towns were a government initiative established by a group of families that first moved to establish the town. Development towns were started with a small number of families at first and would later grow into large cities. For this reason, in order for the town to grow into a big city, they were allocated a large jurisdiction, some even larger than that of Tel Aviv.

The establishment of these towns involved economic, security and sanitation factors. The waves of Jewish immigration from Arab countries in the 1950s provided a large number of citizens who lacked the information and familiarity regarding the settlement options; and consequently, it was easy to send them to one of these new towns, which at times, were still in the process of developing infrastructure and some were located in desolate areas.

The first development town was Beit Shemesh, which was established in 1950, and is not far from Jerusalem. Other development towns such as Kiryat Shmona, Or Yehuda and Sderot were built in areas that were once transit camps. These towns were first settled by new immigrants from Arab countries such as Morocco and Tunisia.

Years later, many of Israel's development towns have been left 'behind', due to their geographic distance from the center of the country. This is also a result of the enormous cultural gap between their countries of origin and the image of the Ashkenazi Sabra of the beginning of Israel's settlement. With large waves of immigration in the 1990s, immigrants from the Former Soviet Union also moved to development towns; and currently, they comprise 1/3 of their residents.

Figure: **Kobi Oz**

Born in 1969, is an Israeli singer, songwriter, composer, musician and author. He became famous as the lead singer



in the Israeli band – Tipex, and was their main songwriter.

Oz was born in Sderot as Yaakov Uzan to a Tunisian family. At the age of 15, he changed his name to Kobi Oz and began playing the keyboard in various bands, including Sftayim, in his hometown. Oz and Tipex were innovators in the music industry and combined pop and middle eastern styles. Their lyrics told the story of the development town and the reality of the lives of people living there - struggling to make ends meet. According to Kobi: “We are identified with music that comes from the street, the neighborhoods, the town, the kibbutz, the field... We searched for members who shared our message. We are part of the Middle eastern Jewish revolution but are also connected to international pop music and rock n’ roll.”

In addition to being a musician, Oz is involved in promoting a dialogue to reduce social gaps in Israeli society. He was one of creators of the Children of Immigrants Project, featuring traveling cultural evenings held at bars in the periphery. Artists, both from eastern and western origins take part in the project, and there are also artists who immigrated from the former Soviet Union.

“Israel in 2017 is now ready for the messages that Tipex has been trying to convey,” he says. The time has come for us to stop being a ‘pale’ version of the English. We should wear the badge of our ethnic origins with pride. At the moment, this is only the beginning of the process, and we have a long way to go; but I think that the power that unites us is stronger the power that divides us. In my opinion, I am the person who has performed the widest gymnastic split. On the one hand, I won a prize from the Reform Movement, on Shavuot, I attended a learning program run by the Tzohar Rabbis and I appear in the settlements and before left-wing students. In each of these places, I somehow manage to get my message across. This shows that there is more that unites us than divides us. This rift won’t work. What has been created

here is one nation that tells its history in a more correct fashion; and from now on, its characteristics will reflect its entire population, not just part of it – and you will see the gaps beginning to close.”



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