



חינוך ונוער
Youth & Education



ISRACHUTE

A Parachute Adventure in Israel

Parachute Kit

Overseas Department - Education Division KKL - JNF



The Overseas Department
of the Education Division
KKL-JNF



Dear Shlichim, Teachers, Guides, and Educators!

The Overseas Education Department is happy to present the Activity Kit:

Israchute - A Parachute Adventure In Israel

The goal of the kit is to introduce various sites in Israel to the participants by way of dynamic games and activities, using a specially designed parachute.

The activities presented in the kit are appropriate for children of all ages.

The kit includes:

- A designed parachute with pictures of 12 carefully chosen sites, important landmarks in Israel.
- A basic activity plan that includes a frame story of traveling in Israel.
- Additional enriching and fun activities.

We hope the kit will help you make a personal connection with the participants and that taking part in these activities will strengthen the emotional connection of Diaspora Jew to Israel.

Sincerely,

Overseas Education Department
Education Division
KKL-JNF

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Israchute - Basic Activity Plan

Goals:

1. Familiarization with the sites presented on the parachute.
2. Discovering the plenitude of exciting experiences and varied scenery Israel has to offer.
3. Developing the imagination and creative thinking.

Age: children

Time: 45-60 minutes

Equipment:

- A designed parachute from the parachute kit
- A ball

Optional accessories*: Salt, A snorkel, Disposable coffee cups, A water gun, A paper-note for each of the participants, A prayer book, and other items that can help illustrate the story.

(*) The activity is based on the participants' imagination, and aims to develop their creative thinking. Thus, it is less recommended to use additional accessories, other than the parachute and ball. However, the activity leader can choose to enrich the experience and add some of the optional accessories. For example, water gun for the Sea of Galilee, or for the Red Sea.

Activity schedule:

Stage one: Introduction of the parachute and opening activity (15 minutes)

Stage two: The story - Active participation (15-20 minutes)

Stage three: Conclusion and sharing (15-20 minutes)



Stage One: Introduction of the Parachute and Opening Activity (15 minutes)

The activity leader tells the children that they will be going on a special and fun trip in Israel, a trip with a special parachute.

Spread the parachute on the ground and ask the children to stand around it, then ask them to hold its edges and stretch it out.

Things to do with the parachute:

- Raising the parachute up high
- Lowering the parachute
- Wave movement
- Making a shelter and hiding inside it
- Making a ship's sail
- Making a skyscraper shape
- Making a royal cape
- Making a high mountain
- Making an ice cream shape

Stage Two: The story - Active Participation (15-20 minutes)

The frame story is accompanied by a ball, which the activity leader bounces, from time to time, on the parachute. The picture the ball will land on will be the site the group will go to.

The participants can also direct the ball on the parachute, in accordance with the story and their familiarity with the site.

Pantomime used in the Travel Frame Story:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| • Carrying a bag and putting things into it | • Dipping your feet in water |
| • Parachuting | • Floating on the water |
| • Hot/cold | • Eating ice cream |
| • Eating | |
| • Praying | And more... |
| • Drinking coffee in a coffee house | |
| • Looking at the view from a skyscraper | |



A Frame Story of Travels in Israel

On a nice sunny day, we decided to pack a small backpack. Inside it we put a hat, a water bottle, a notebook, a sweater, a sandwich and a map, and off we went to travel in the Land of Israel.
[The activity leader will ask the children to take an imaginary bag and put the above items in it.]

Our journey was very special. We arrived by parachute, straight from the sky.
[The leader will ask the participants to hold the parachute, with one hand or two depending on the number of participants.]

Up in the sky, it was cool and nice. Sometimes, the wind took the parachute higher up.
[The leader will ask the participants to raise the parachute higher together.]

From up high, the land looked like a colorful layer cake.
[Lowering the parachute and looking at all the colorful pictures.]

With not much time to think, we suddenly landed in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel.
[The activity leader throws the ball into the center of the parachute, and the group should place it in the middle]

There, we put notes in the Kotel, of all the requests our families gave us.
[Leader: Two children hold the parachute high like a wall and the others stand in a praying position: bowing, rocking back and forth, or "putting" notes in the wall.]

We walked along the Old City walls, out through Jaffa Gate, and arrived at the Windmill in Mishkenot Sha'ananim, the first neighborhood that was built outside the Old City walls
[Most of the participants will hold and raise the parachute, while the rest blow wind into the parachute.]

From there we went west, to the newer part of the city. We stood next to the Knesset Menorah, which stands opposite the Knesset. The Menorah is the symbol of the State of Israel, and is similar in shape to the ancient menorah from the Holy Temple.
[The activity leader takes the parachute and wears it like a king's cape.]

We ended our tour of Jerusalem at Mt. Herzl, above the grave of "the visionary of the state" Benjamin Ze'ev Herzl. Without him, this trip could probably not have been possible.
[With the help of all the participants, shape the parachute like a mountain.]

Hooked to the parachute again, we left the mountains of Jerusalem and continued to fly above Israel, until we arrived to a high white mountain.



[The activity leader will check if the participants understand where to place the ball.]

It was terribly cold on the white mountain. We wondered for a moment if we came to the right place.
[Put the parachute on the ground, everyone stands freezing from the cold.]

We spread blankets on the ground, crowded together and covered ourselves up to keep warm.
[Lift up the parachute together and get under it.]

It looks like we arrived at Mt. Hermon, the highest and northernmost mountain in Israel. The mountain is covered with snow for several months each year, mainly during the winter, and many Israelis go there for ski.

[Put the parachute on the ground and stand outside it in a skiing position, making skiing pantomime.]

After skiing down the mountain, we continued to Agamon Hula, where we rode bikes around the lake, amazed by all the beautiful birds that surrounded us.
[Put the parachute on the ground, and flap your arms like birds' wings.]

From Agamon Hula we continued to the Sea of Galilee.

[Spread the parachute on the ground and ask a volunteer to "swim" inside it. You can ask the others to move the parachute slowly, creating waves.]

The atmosphere is magical at the Sea of Galilee and the water is sweet.

When mosquitoes started biting us [scratch], we decided it was time to leave.

We drove along the Jordan River, on a long and winding road called "Valley Road".
[Hold the parachute like a steering wheel, and make pantomime of sharp turns of the road.]

Until we felt like we were in an elevator going down to the lowest floor:
[Raise the parachute up high and slowly lower it. Go all the way down to a sitting position.]

We landed at the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth, and probably the saltiest. We forgot to bring salt, so we sprinkled some salt grains we found on the beach, on our sandwiches.
[Take out the imaginary sandwiches, sprinkle a few imaginary grains of salt on them, and eat them heartily.]

We went into the water and floated without any floatation devices.
[Lie on the parachute as if you are floating on the water of the Dead Sea.]

From there, we climbed to a marvelous fortress built 2,000 years ago, Masada. It was built as a palace for King Herod, and fighters from the Great Revolt hid there.
[Hold the parachute up high and hide underneath it, then sit on the floor and close the parachute around you.]



From Masada we went to see one of the world's most wonderful natural phenomena: the Small Crater, where we collected colorful sands in a bottle.
[Three to four participants go into the center of the parachute. The rest hold its edges up to create a sort of bowl.]

It was very hot and we were tired, so we decided it was time for some sunbathing in Eilat. We snorkeled there too, and saw colorful corals and beautiful fish.
[Half of the participants hold the parachute and create waves, and the rest "swim" and "snorkel".]

After we rested enough, we went up to the capital of the Negev, Beer Sheva, to taste its famous ice cream, "Beer 7 Ice Cream".
[We will all make shapes of ice cream scoops, or ice cream cones from the parachute (using their imagination, folding it, puffing it, squashing it etc.) and "lick" it.]

When we had enough ice cream, we decided to go and have a picnic at JNF-KKL Yatir Forest, and rest in the shade of the trees.
[Let half of the participants hold the parachute up to create shade, and the rest will sit "in the shade" under the parachute.]

From there, we went even further north to Tel Aviv, where the hummus may not be as good as in Jerusalem, but it has the best coffee houses in Israel, and they are full of customers all day.
[Ask some of the participants to cover themselves with the parachute to create a table, put two chairs... and the rest of the group can chat as if they are in a coffee house.]

There are also skyscrapers there that remind us a little of New York.
[The activity leader will ask a few of the taller participants to stand underneath the parachute. The rest will stand on chairs and look beyond the "skyscraper".]

Tel Aviv is next to the shore of the Mediterranean Sea, so we decided to take the opportunity and go to swim a little in the cold water.
[Half of the participants make waves with the parachute, and half "swim" inside.]

We swam north until we arrived to Haifa, straight to the harbor, where we stopped next to a large sailboat, and understood that it was time to go home.
[Hold the parachute and form a ship's sail.]

The trip was tiring but amazing!



Stage Three: Conclusion and Sharing (15 minutes)

We will spread the parachute on the ground. The activity leader will sit in its center, and the participants will sit around it.

The leader will throw the ball to a different participant each time.

The participants will sit next to each of the sites; and each time the ball is thrown to a specific place, we will ask a question about that site.

A participant who answered correctly gets to throw the ball to someone else. If that friend answered correctly, he gets to throw the ball. If not, the question goes to the group. If someone knows the answer, they get the ball, otherwise the ball is returned to the leader.

Example Questions:

Jerusalem is Israel's capital	True/False
There is a sea in Jerusalem	True/False
Tel Aviv is the most populated city in Israel	True/False
(Jerusalem is the most populated city)	
Eilat is a northern Israeli city	True/False
(Eilat is the southernmost city)	
Hermon is the highest mountain in Israel	Trues/False
The Dead Sea is famous for being the saltiest place in the world	True/False
(It is famous for being the lowest place on Earth)	
Kiryat Shmona is the northernmost city in Israel	True/False

Concluding Questions:

- What did you enjoy most?
- Where in Israel would you like to visit and why?
- What did you learn about Israel that you didn't already know?



Israchute - Additional Activities

Introduction to the parachute

Ask the participants to stand around the parachute and hold it by the edges. Tell them that on the parachute are pictures from Israel and that the parachute will help them to get to know Israel better. Explain: In order for us to take off and travel around Israel, we have to warm up the parachute; we'll begin with getting acquainted with it. Holding the parachute together, we will move forward, backward, to the right, to the left, lift it up, and lower it down.

Getting to know the sites on the parachute

Help the children spread the parachute on the ground, and explain:

"Now we will begin our journey, and get to know the following sites..."

Choose 3-5 sites, for example; Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Eilat, Agamon Hula.

Tell the group a few things about each place.

The game: Ask the children to run around the parachute.

When they hear the leader call out a name of a place, they must reach it as quickly as possible.

Taking the game one level higher, you can add gestures typical to each site.

For example: In Eilat – swimming, in Agamon Hula – looking through binoculars etc.

You can ask the children to suggest more gestures for the various sites.

The game: When the leader calls out a name of a place, the children must run to it and make the correct typical gesture.

More places and gestures can be added.

Option: Running to the wrong place, or making the wrong gesture will get the participant disqualified and out of the game. The winner is the one who remains last.



More Games

1. Charade: Choose 1-3 children to perform the charade. They have to present a site using gestures and movements only, without making a sound. The other children must figure out which site is the correct answer, and go stand on or next to its picture on the parachute. When all children made a choice, the "actors" reveal the correct answer. Those who made a mistake leave the game.
2. Ball game: Put the ball on the parachute and ask the participants to move it a full circle around the parachute, throw the ball so it reaches a specific place, bounce the ball an X number of times without dropping it, and more.
3. "Cat and Mouse": Choose two children, one will be the "cat" and the other will be the "mouse". The cat must catch the mouse. The rest of the participants move the parachute to help the mouse and make it difficult for the cat to catch him. If caught, the leader can ask the mouse a question about the place they were caught at. For example, if caught near Jerusalem, they would be asked to say something they know about the city, or get a task, such as to sing a song about Jerusalem. When they succeed, another "mouse" will be chosen. The game can be played several times, with different participants.
4. Guided Imagination: A story about Abraham, who immigrated from the U.S.A to Israel. We will dramatize the story with the children and the parachute.
The story
When Abraham arrives to Israel, he lies on the ground and kisses it enthusiastically. From the airport, he travels to Jerusalem, goes to pray at the Kotel, and puts a note between its cracks.
[The parachute will be a "wall" and the children will "put" notes between the cracks.]
Abraham believes it is important to inhabit the Negev, and decides to live in Dimona. After a while, he goes with his family on vacation to Eilat. They go ice-skating together.
[Some participants will "ice skate" and the others will hold the parachute above their heads like a roof.]
Abraham's parents come to visit their family in Israel, and the family decides to travel to Agamon Hula. They watch birds, fly in a hot-air balloon and enjoy every minute.
[The parachute will be used as a hot-air balloon for some of the participants. Others will ride imaginary bicycle, or watch the many birds that inhabit the Agamon].
It is possible to add more sites to the story, and tell about them in an age-appropriate way, and also to include the children in the dramatization of the story..

Concluding Games:

1. **Brown-Blue-Green:**
 - Only the participants holding pictures that belong to the color blue in the JNF-KKL symbol get underneath the parachute. The others "entrap" them until they name three JNF-KKL ventures involving the color blue.
 - The same for the colors brown and green
2. North-South-East-West:
 - Roll the ball southwards and yell the name of a southern JNF-KKL venture (Forest/Park), and do the same for other regions in Israel.
 - Say the name of a JNF-KKL forest/site and the participants must roll the ball towards the part of the parachute with the picture of that site.
3. Sites:
 - A. The ball is rolled to a different city each time; Haifa, Tel Aviv, Eilat, Jerusalem, or to a different sea/body of water, or to a different JNF-KKL project.
 - B. The participants stand around the parachute and throw the ball to each other. When the leader whistles, whoever is holding the ball throws it up in the air. When the ball lands on the parachute, the first participant to say something true about the place the ball hit, will get one point. The goal of the game is to earn as many points as possible.
 - C. Bounce the ball in the middle of the parachute, on Jerusalem. Every time the ball is in the air a different participant must say something that connects them to Israel.

Simple Fun Games (can be used as recess games)

- Bounce the ball as high as possible on the parachute.
- Roll the ball to a specific child (girl with braids, boy with glasses etc.)
- Walk/run around the parachute while holding it with one hand.
- Shake the parachute together, gently or hard.
- Everyone goes under the parachute and come out again.
- Spread the parachute on the ground and play "Land, Sea, Air".



