

Grade

Asara

3



BeTevet

ERETZ YISRAEL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



# The Negev

ALIZA SOKOL





THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE  
THROUGH THE VISION AND GENEROSITY OF  
**EVELYN AND DR. SHMUEL KATZ** OF BAL HARBOUR, FLORIDA  
AND REFLECTS THEIR GREAT LOVE AND COMMITMENT  
TO JEWISH EDUCATION AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL  
AND WAS LOVINGLY DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF  
JACOB DOV KATZ Z”L  
AND SARAH ROHR A”H



.. ERETZ YISRAEL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR ..

ASARA BETEVET

THE NEGEV

GRADE 3

ALIZA SOKOL



**Lookstein Center Director and Educational Consultant:** Stuart Zweiter  
**Academic Consultant and Curriculum Developer:** Michael Grunzweig  
**Educational Supervisor:** Moshe Abelesz  
**Graphics Coordinator:** Michal Finkelberg  
**Editorial Advisor:** Alissa Burstein  
**Technical Support:** Chana German  
**Graphic Design:** Dov Abramson :: Orit Ditur, Tal Hovav  
**Illustrations:** Orit Ditur  
**Front Cover Concept:** Ori Rozevich  
**Project Director:** Yonah Fuld

© Copyright 2012

Developed by The Lookstein Center, Bar-Ilan University. The syllabus outline for this series was initially based on a curriculum development project which The Lookstein Center was commissioned to develop and implement by AMODS, Yeshiva University.

We acknowledge with gratitude the following sources of photographs and maps listed below:

Biblewalks.com (pages 34 [bottom], 35)

Morguefile.com (page 43 [bottom])

National Photo Collection, Government Press Office, Jerusalem (pages 20 [bottom], 22 [top], 23 [top], 25 [top])

Nostalgia online, Israel culture preservation project [www.nostal.co.il](http://www.nostal.co.il) (page 35 [bottom])

Orna Goren (page 18 [top])

Pbase.com (pages 40, 42)

Revivim Archive (pages 11, 12, 13 [top], 14)

Shlittner Family (page 45 [bottom])

The Ministry of Tourism website (page 15)

Wikipedia (pages 8, 9, 10, 13 [bottom], 16 [L to R: 1, 3, 4], 17, 18 [bottom], 19, 20 [top], 21 [right], 22 [bottom], 23 [bottom], 24, 25 [bottom], 29, 32, 33, 34 [top], 36, 37, 38, 39 [bottom], 43 [top], 44, 45 [top], 47)

Yotvata Archive (page 16 [L to R: 2])



## The Negev Table of Contents

	Page
<b>Introduction</b>	7
<b>Lesson 1</b>	
Settling the Negev	9
<b>Lesson 2</b>	
The Bedouins	17
<b>Lesson 3</b>	
Wonders of the Desert	28
<b>Lesson 4</b>	
Eilat	37

This booklet is filled with lots of interesting information. If you only have time to study certain sections in class, we invite you to look at the others in your free time.



# INTRODUCTION

**Dear Student,**

Take a moment to think about the desert. What does it bring to mind? What type of weather do you think there is in the desert? Do you think it would be easy or hard to live in the desert? What types of things would you find in the desert and what would you not find?

The desert:

- Is a large open area of land where hardly anything grows.
- Is very hot during the day and can be cold at night. It is dry and sandy and does not get a lot of rain.
- Has few people living there.

In these lessons, you will learn about the desert in Israel, which is called the "Negev" - נגב.

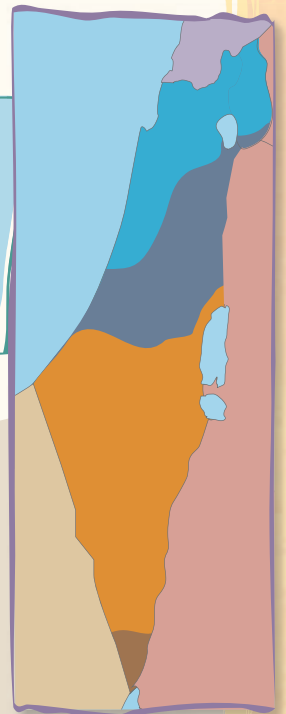
## **Did You Know?**

The Hebrew word "negev" – נגב – means "dry."

We use a מַגְבָּת – towel – לְנַגֵּב אֶת הַיָּדַיִם – to dry our hands.

Now that you know some facts about the desert, guess how much of Israel is desert.

Take a look at the map of Israel. The orange and brown parts represent the Negev. Unbelievable! The Negev is more than half of Israel. This



means that more than half of Israel is desert land!

But believe it or not, 400,000 people actually live in the Negev!

There are even large cities and towns in the Negev: Arad, Beer Sheva, Dimona, Eilat, Mitzpe Ramon, Sderot etc. Have you ever visited any of these cities?

In the following lessons you will:

- Learn about the challenges faced by the first people who moved to the Negev
- Meet the Bedouins and learn about their lifestyle
- Discover the natural wonders that are unique to the Negev and learn about Mitzpe Ramon and its surroundings
- Explore the wonders of Eilat and the exciting attractions it has to offer



### **Did You Know?**

Since the Negev is in the south of Israel, the word *Negba* is used in the Torah to mean “to the south.”

We will begin our tour at the northern part of the Negev and will make our way down to the southernmost part of Israel.

Enjoy your trip through the Negev. Take time to look around and see what the Negev has to offer. And remember, it's going to be hot, so don't forget to bring a hat and water!

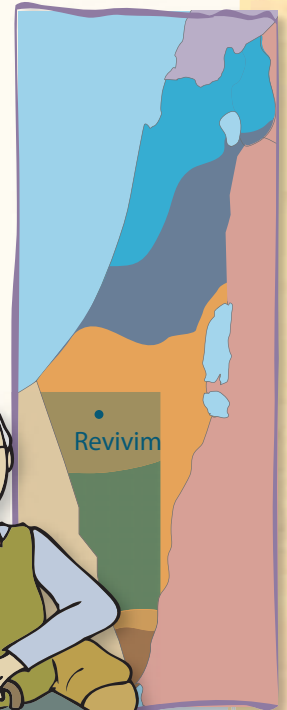
# LESSON 1



## SETTLING THE NEGEV

Hi. My name is Shlomo, but most people call me Saba Shlomo. I live in the Negev in a small kibbutz called Revivim. Revivim is in the northern part of the Negev. Take a look at the map and point to Revivim.

The Negev was empty desert land before we came and started to build cities. There was almost no life here. There were no children running in the streets - in fact, there were no streets! There were no grocery stores, there were no parks, and there were no schools and definitely no movie theatres. All that could be found in the Negev was desert. It was just a wasteland - empty and lonely. It seemed to have no hope. But all that was a long time ago. Let's start my story from the beginning...



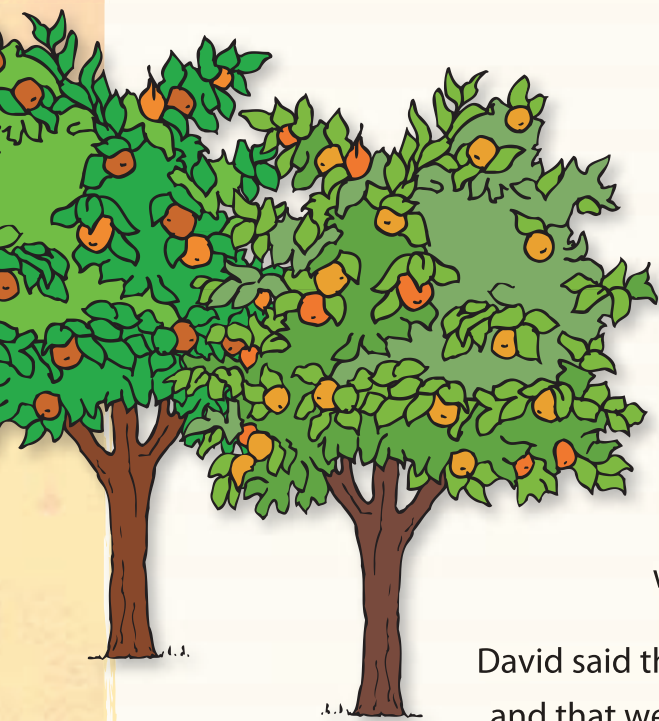
## Coming to Israel

As a young boy, I grew up in Poland with my childhood friend David Green.

My family came to Israel, which was known as Palestine in those days, and guess what? We moved into a home right next to where David lived. He had moved there a few years earlier. However, by that time he changed his name from David Green to David Ben-Gurion. You may have heard of him. He is best known as Israel's first prime minister, but to me, he was just my friend, David.



*David Ben-Gurion*



We came to Palestine with a dream to work the land and build a future Jewish homeland. While we were working in the orange groves, David would tell me about his dream to live in the Negev. He said that plants and trees could grow in the desert, and people would eventually move there, lots and lots of people! His dream was to have "a million farms in the Negev."

David said that our forefathers had planted trees in the Negev and that we must continue to follow in their footsteps.

### **Fun Fact**



**Look up Breishit 21:32.** Which forefather planted a tree in Beer Sheva? Today, Beer Sheva is the largest city in the Negev.

David felt that the Negev was just waiting for Jews to move to it. He was convinced that one day, Jews from America, Russia, Iraq and all over the world would move there.

It seemed so hard to believe! I told him it would take a miracle for that to happen. Imagine, people living in a barren desert. Impossible!



### **Point to Ponder**

If someone came and told you that you could build farms and grow fruits and vegetables on this land, would you believe them?



David seemed so sure of himself, but I questioned him.

There were many nights when I couldn't sleep, thinking about whether David was really right. I had to know the answer.

## Kibbutz Revivim

I finally got my chance to answer these questions. The year was 1943, just five years before the State of Israel was established, and I was sitting in my living room reading a book. The doorbell rang and this visit would change my life forever.

I welcomed a man from the Jewish Agency. He was an important man. He asked me if I wanted to be part of a new experiment.

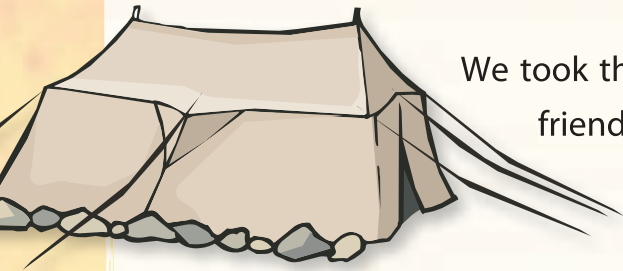
## The Experiment

A small group of people were invited to start a brand new community in the Negev, called Revivim. Their mission was to see if food could actually grow in the desert. Three men had already started working and a new group of nine people were now being asked to join. Did I want to be a part of this team?

I thought about it and knew I couldn't resist. I knew that I had to have my answers. Could we bring the Negev to life? Would people want to live in a desert so far away from most of the cities? I joined and became one of the nine.







We took the long trip to Revivim and when we got there, my friend Ori wanted to rest. It had been a long journey and we were all tired, but we knew we had to get to work. We pitched our tents and got moving!

Our first job was to find water. After all, nothing would grow without water. First we tried to collect rainwater, but as you know, it doesn't rain much in the desert! We weren't able to collect enough rainwater to plant our crops. We needed a new plan.

We knew that there was an ancient well somewhere nearby. Ori suggested that we start digging and maybe we could find it. We spent days digging, and it was hard, exhausting, physical work. There were days when I thought that we would not be successful, but sure enough, one day I heard shouting from a corner of our kibbutz.



"Come here. I've found something!"



We ran over to see what had happened. Ori had been digging and found a well full of water! I ran back to get a cup and dipped it into the well. Oh, the excitement! I thought I could never be this happy. I raised the cup to my lips and took a big sip and.... spat it out! Yuk! It was salty!

I was so sad!

How would we ever be able to grow things with salty water? Ori looked at me and saw that I was upset. He asked me what was wrong and I told him my fear.

He said, "There is only one way to find out. Let's try and see what happens."

The next day we dug a huge ditch in the land and planted seeds. We planted pomegranate seeds, grape seeds, olives and dates. We watered them daily. We waited and waited for something to sprout from the ground. Meanwhile, others were working and trying to figure out how to make the water less salty.

One day, I was walking out to the field and I was talking to Ori. I turned my head for a moment and I couldn't believe my eyes. In the olive section of the field, a sprout had grown. We ran to tell all of our friends.

Each day we watched that field to see if anything else had grown. Sure enough, a couple of days later I returned and there were three more sprouts. It turned out that olive trees grow nicely with salty water!



Throughout the years we experimented with many different fruits and vegetables. After many experiments, we were able to decrease the amount of salt that was in the water. We could now grow dates, olives, other fruits and many different types of flowers.

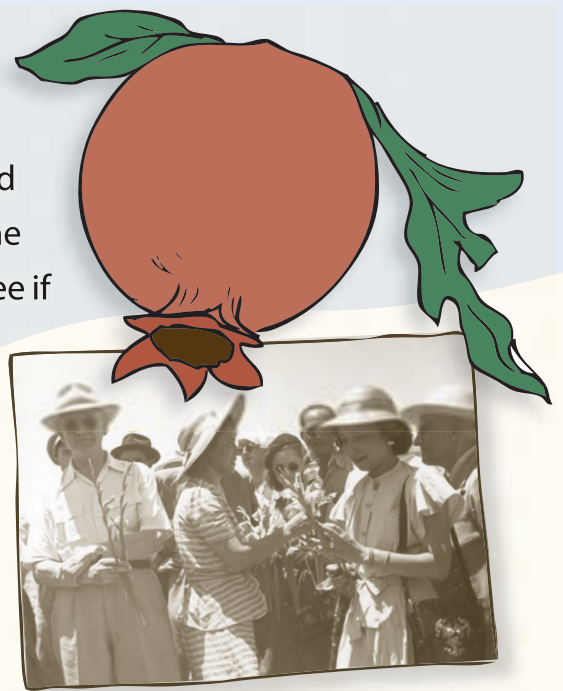
We did it! We succeeded. The desert was now beginning to bloom and was getting ready for the Jewish people. It would soon be a large part of the Jewish State.

In fact, in order to make sure that the Negev remained in Jewish hands, eleven new settlements were secretly created in the Negev in just **one** night: the night after Yom Kippur in 1946. We will learn about this incredible story in another unit.

In 1947, a member of the United Nations came to visit us in Revivim. The United Nations is made up of representatives from most countries in the

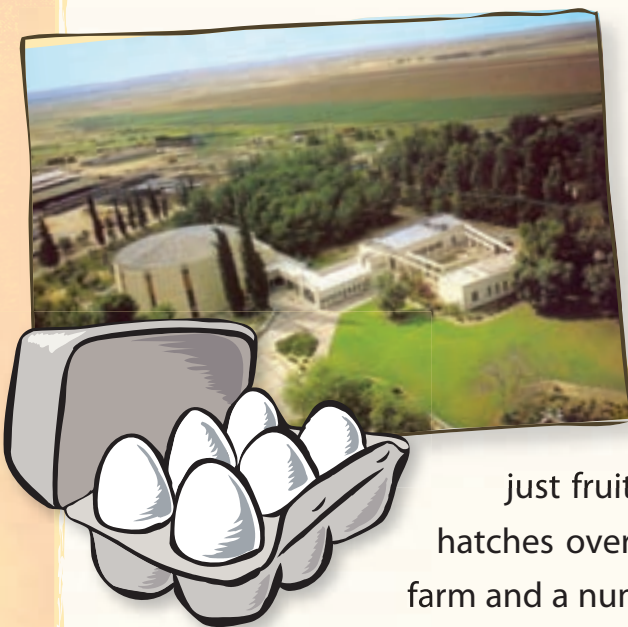
world. The UN was deciding whether there should be a Jewish State and what land should be in it. The representative came to check out the Negev and see if it should be a part of the Jewish State. The man walked around the fields. He picked gladiolas, one of the flowers that we grew. He saw the pomegranate and olive trees. He couldn't believe his eyes. He even told me that at first, he thought they were fake. He said, "How can such beautiful, colorful, tasty fruits grow in the desert? If this is all true, then the Negev must be a part of Israel, the future Jewish State." That is exactly what happened. During the War of Independence, Israel managed to hold on to the entire Negev.

I soon got married and had kids. Now my kids have grown up, are married, and have children of their own. They too have decided to come and join us, and live in Revivim.



Look at this picture of Revivim today. So many trees, fields and grass. Can you believe that it is in the middle of the desert? Today, it is a beautiful kibbutz with children playing in the streets and running in the fields. It started out with only three people, but today, Revivim has nine hundred people living there. It is a thriving kibbutz which produces not just fruits and flowers, but also has a chicken coop that hatches over 12 million eggs a year, as well as a large dairy farm and a number of different factories. Our olive oil has won prizes for being so good. We are very proud to live in the Negev.

Together, my family and I still work hard, making sure that the Negev continues to grow. Come and visit us and drop by our exciting museum that tells about the history of the kibbutz.

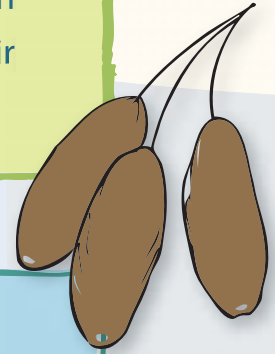






### Point to Ponder

This kibbutz was named "Revivim" which means "rain drops." Why do you think the group decided to name their kibbutz "Revivim"? Would you have called it that?



### Did You Know?

Israelis have always been worried about the country's lack of water, since it only rains for a few months a year, and sometimes only very small amounts fall. Therefore, Israel has begun building water cleaning factories. These factories, called desalinization plants, can even take salty water from the ocean and clean it so that Israelis can have fresh, good water to drink. We will talk about this issue in other units.

### Did You Know?

- Revivim had a resident who became a prime minister, Golda Meir.
- David Ben-Gurion, just like Saba Shlomo, eventually fulfilled his dream and moved to Kibbutz Sde Boker in the Negev in 1953. He lived there in a very simple home for the rest of his life, and is buried there together with his wife, Paula.



*David Ben-Gurion's Sde Boker home*

## Activity

### Create Your Own Emblem

Every city has its own symbol or emblem that tells its story.

Here are the symbols of Jerusalem and Beer Sheva.

You will remember that Avraham planted a tree in Beer Sheva – a tree and the *passuk* appear on its symbol.

Now that you know the story of Kibbutz Revivim, design your own emblem for the kibbutz and present it to the class.



In this lesson we have seen how the early pioneers began to settle the Negev and make it bloom.



In the next lesson we will learn about another group of people who live in the Negev, the Bedouins.

# LESSON 2



## THE BEDOUINS

Come in, come in! Welcome to our home. I know that this might not look like the home that you live in, but to us, this tent is our home. My name is Mahmoud, and my family and I are so happy that you have come to visit us. Please, sit down on these mats and I will tell you about who we are and how we live.



### Who We Are

We are the Bedouins of the Negev. Bedouin is Arabic for desert dwellers, and that is exactly what we are! We are a tribe of people who wander the desert. We can be found in many different places all over the Middle East, but my family has chosen to live around the Negev in Israel. The Negev has large open areas that offer our animals enough room to graze and eat.

#### **Did You Know?**

Today there are 180,000 Bedouins living in the Negev!





We heard that the Jews were once a wandering nation, but then settled in their own country. We, the Bedouins, have been wandering the desert for many years. Because the Negev has so little water and land for growing food, we wander around looking for new land to live on. Some of us have now settled in cities, but my family and I choose to continue this way of life today.



### ***Did You Know?***

The wandering of the Bedouin is often a problem for Israel, because they frequently set up their tents and take land that does not belong to them. The Bedouins used to wander all over the Middle East. But now that there are borders with other countries, they cannot go wherever they want.



We always travel together as a family. Family is extremely important to us. Together, my parents, my wives, my eight children, my three brothers and their families live in one tent. It's not the type of tent that you go camping in, but a large tent with many different sections. The roof of the tent is flat so that it cannot be blown away by the wind. We are one family, and live as

one family. My father, being the oldest man in our family, makes all the important decisions. If there is an argument, he is the one who settles it. Bedouins have tremendous respect for older people.



## Activity 1

Imagine that you are the eldest in a Bedouin family. You live with your entire family in one tent. As the oldest, it is up to you to ensure that everyone gets along and that there is order in your family. It is your job to make the rules in your home.

Make a list of rules for your family. Share them with your class.

## Bedouin Tent

We call this tent that you are sitting in a *Bayt Char*, which is Arabic for “House of Hair.”

Bedouin tents are made of goat hair, and are woven together by Bedouin women.

This is the perfect material for making our tents because:

- Goat hair is excellent for insulation.
- It is waterproof – when rain falls on it, the goat hairs swell up and do not allow any water to come through.
- When we light a fire inside the tent, it keeps the tent warm and cozy and doesn’t let the warm air out.
- In the heat of the summer, we don’t need air conditioning! The outside of our tent becomes very hot, but the inside stays nice and cool.

In the winter, we are careful not to set up our tents in a wadi. A wadi is a river bed. When there is no rain,



these wadis are completely dry. However, when it rains in the mountains above, within seconds tremendous amounts of water come rushing down into the wadi, causing a flash flood. The water can come with such speed that it brushes away anything in its path, including heavy trucks and cars.



### Guests

The tent that you are sitting in is actually split into several sections. This area, called a *mag'ad*, is where we host our guests. The other area, the *maharama*, is where the women prepare the food and host female guests. I bet you can smell the warm, delicious aromas.

Guests are always welcome in a Bedouin tent. We really feel privileged to have you here and to serve you. It is traditional to serve our guests drinks. Which drink would you prefer, tea or coffee? I usually prefer tea. I drink up to seven glasses of tea a day! It keeps me strong and feeling fresh in this very dry desert.

### Fun Fact



Did you know that Bedouin tea is just like regular tea, except that Bedouins like it VERY sweet? They add lots of sugar!

Now that you have had your drinks, let me tell you about some of our delicious food. I love the smell of these delicacies.



Here is some warm *farasheeh* right off the fire. *Farasheeh* is special bread. It is flat bread, and for those of you who have been to Israel, it is similar to a *laffa*.

### Try This at Home!

#### Recipe for Farasheeh (Bedouin bread)

½ cup olive oil  
1 oz. dry baker's yeast  
1 tbsp. honey  
1-1 ¼ cups tepid water  
3 ½ cups flour  
2 tsp. salt

1. Mix yeast and honey in warm water. Let it sit for 3 minutes.
2. Mix the flour and salt with the yeast mixture.
3. Knead the dough. Cut into 8 pieces and shape into balls. Roll or flatten with hands.
4. Put on lightly greased cookie sheets and cover with towel. Allow to rise in a warm place for 1-2 hours.
5. Bake



*Farasheeh*



*Mansaf*

We can't have a feast without meat! One of my favorites is *mansaf*, stewed lamb. We serve *mansaf* on a bed of rice. My wife is known for her amazing *mansaf* and rice. I love it!



When we host our guests, we entertain them with song and dance.

Here are a couple of the musical instruments that we use:

This is called a *shabbaba*.  
It is similar to a flute.



This is called a *rababa*.  
It is a one-string violin.



We also use our voices and the clap of our hands to entertain our guests. Singing helps us feel strong in the desert, and the loneliness that we sometimes feel, disappears.



### Point to Ponder

Do you have a favorite song? Why is this song your favorite? How do you feel when you hear this song? Have you ever listened to music and felt that it changed your mood? Why do you think music has this effect on people? Why do you think song and dance is so much a part of the Bedouin culture?

### Camels

Take a look around. It might seem strange that we have animals grazing around our tent. Is it like this in your home? You can see sheep and goats over there, and of course, these are our camels!



I know this is your first time visiting our home, but you should know that whenever you visit a Bedouin tent, you will be sure to find camels nearby. You might be wondering, why camels?



### Point to Ponder

Can you think of a reason why camels are so important to Bedouins? Share your answer with the class.

Here are some of the reasons camels are so valuable to Bedouins:

- A camel is a great animal for desert life because it can tolerate thirst for a long period of time. As you know, water is hard to find in the desert.
- Camels eat desert shrubs (small thorny bushes). There are plenty of these in the desert so the camels will never be hungry!
- Camels are strong animals, so when a Bedouin family moves its tent from one place to another, the camels can carry all the belongings on their backs.
- Bedouins drink milk from camels. They also eat camel meat.
- Camel skins are hard and can be used to make containers that store water. Bedouins also use the skins to make shoes and sandals to keep their feet off the hot desert sand.
- Camel wool is used to make clothing.



- Camel fur is used to weave bags. These bags are used to hold flour and food.
- Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand.
- An annoyed camel will spit at a person, so don't get in a camel's way!



As you can see, a camel is a very useful animal to have around. So the next time you ask your family for a pet, don't ask for a dog, cat, or hamster. Ask for a camel!

## Activity 2

### Move to the City...?

In the past few years, the Israeli government has offered the Bedouin the chance to move to towns. There, they are given schooling for their children, health care and proper homes. Many Bedouin have taken this opportunity and have gone on to university to become doctors, accountants, lawyers etc. There have even been Bedouin Knesset members.



*A Bedouin town*

However, wandering in the desert is a Bedouin tradition. It is a part of the very essence of who they are.

If you were Mahmoud, what would you do? Would you move your family to the built-up towns, or would you continue your family tradition, wandering in the desert.

You decide (and don't forget to explain why!).



## Bedouins in the Israeli Army

Unlike Jewish Israeli citizens, Bedouins do not have to serve in the army. However, there are Bedouins who feel loyal to the State of Israel and want to help Israel stay safe. There are also young Bedouins who are looking for a new way of life. Because of this, there are many Bedouins who volunteer for the army each year.

While Bedouins have many different jobs in the army, one task they excel in is "tracking." The Bedouins are some of Israel's best trackers. A tracker can look at the dirt tracks and see if enemy soldiers snuck across the border. They can also see how many have come and in which direction they went.

Since these Bedouin soldiers have been born and raised in the desert and are familiar with its surroundings, it is a perfect job for them!

One of the best Bedouin trackers in Israel, named Colonel Abu Sul Mohammad, describes his job in the army:

"The infiltrators use lots of tricks to cross into Israel," Colonel Mohammad says. "They sometimes stick the soles of their shoes on backwards, other times they wear sheep wool on the bottom of their boots. But we still find them."





### Activity 3

#### Help the Bedouin Trackers!

A Bedouin tracker has found these footprints:



They have been following the footprints for days, trying to find where the enemy is hiding. Use this compass and the map to track the enemy and find out in what city he is hiding.

1. The footsteps were first found in the Negev, in the city of Arad.
2. The trackers followed the footsteps west to the nearest city on this map.
3. From there the footsteps continued south to a famous kibbutz where our past Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion lived and is buried.
4. From there, the footsteps continued south to a city that you will soon learn about, a city where a large crater can be found (hint: look ahead in this book a couple of pages).
5. From there, the footprints continued south along the border of Israel to its southernmost city in the Negev.

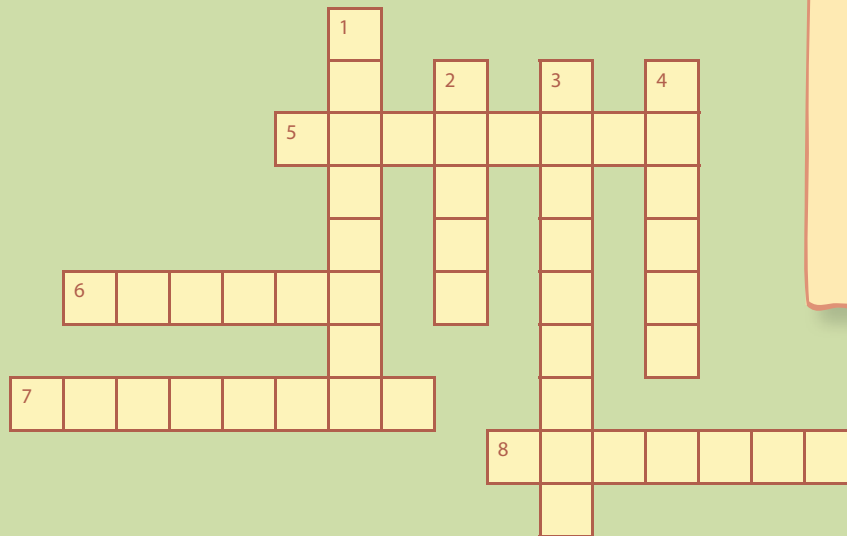
The footprints are leading to this city: \_\_\_\_\_

Great! You are now ready to join the trackers of Israel!

## Optional Activity

### Bedouin Crossword Puzzle

Test your knowledge of Bedouin words



#### Down

1. Flute-like instrument
2. Area in the tent where the Bedouins receive guests
3. Bedouin bread
4. Bedouin meat served with rice

#### Across

5. Area in the Bedouin tent where the women cook and receive women guests
6. One string violin
7. "House of Hair"
8. Arabic word for desert dweller

In this lesson, we learned about the Bedouin and their lifestyle. In the next lesson, we will learn about a special place in the middle of the Negev, a town called Mitzpe Ramon.



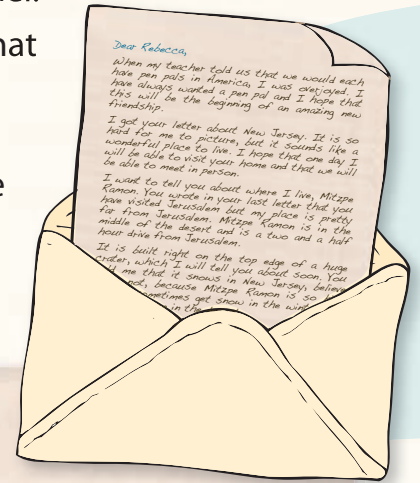
# LESSON 3



## WONDERS OF THE DESERT

Hi, my name is Rebecca. I go to school in New Jersey and I'm in third grade. My teacher gave each of us a pen pal who lives in Israel. She suggested that we write about where we live, what our school is like, and what we do for fun.

My pen pal is a girl named Revital. This month, I wrote to her and received a letter back. I am so excited and I would love to share her letter with you.

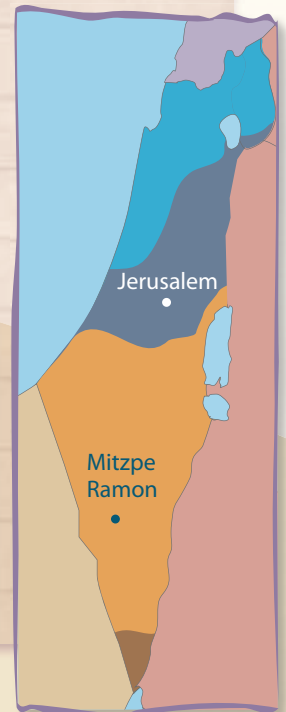


*Dear Rebecca,*

*When my teacher told us that we would each have pen pals in America, I was overjoyed. I have always wanted a pen pal and I hope that this will be the beginning of an amazing new friendship.*

*I got your letter about New Jersey. It is so hard for me to picture, but it sounds like a wonderful place to live. I hope that one day I will be able to visit your home and that we will be able to meet in person.*

*I want to tell you about where I live, Mitzpe Ramon. You wrote in your last letter that you have visited Jerusalem but my home, Mitzpe Ramon, is in the middle of the desert - a two and a half hour drive*



from Jerusalem. It is right on the top edge of a huge crater, which I will tell you about soon. You told me that it snows in New Jersey - believe it or not, because Mitzpe Ramon is so high up, we sometimes get snow even though we are in the desert.

I live with my ima, abba, my brother Shai and my sister Merav. Recently, my sarta moved in with us. She loves to tell us stories. Every night before I go to bed, I sit on my sarta's lap and she tells me about her childhood.

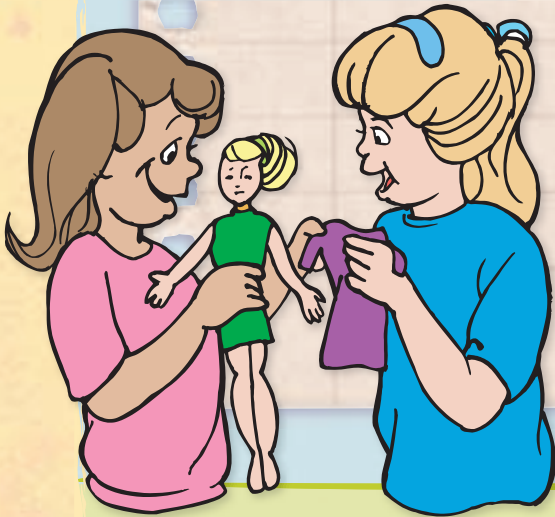
Not long ago, I asked my sarta how Mitzpe Ramon began. She told me that many years ago in 1956, the prime minister at that time, David Ben-Gurion, wanted people to move to the desert. He realized that there were many Jews from all over the world coming to Israel with no home. David Ben-Gurion promised that he would find a home for these immigrants and he decided to build Mitzpe Ramon, a new "development town" - a home for immigrants. The first people to come to Mitzpe Ramon were Jews from North Africa and Romania. Later people from all over Europe also came to live there.

My sarta told me that when she arrived in Israel as a young girl, she and her parents were taken right off the boat and put onto a bus, and were brought to Mitzpe Ramon. It was a difficult place to live. It was very hot, in the middle of nowhere with not





*much to do. She said that there were also so many Jews from so many different countries that it was hard to communicate because everyone spoke a different language. She said they would play ball in the streets and you could hear French, Arabic, Romanian and Polish. My sarta had a neighbor, a young girl who was her age who spoke Romanian. She told me that at first they played with their dolls, using a lot of hand motions, but after a short time they both learned to speak Hebrew. My sarta told me that she even learned a few Romanian words!*



### **Activity 1**

Here is your chance to make friends

Here are many ways to say "Hello" in different languages. Test yourself and see how many you can remember:

**Hebrew-** Shalom

**Arabic-** Salaam

**Russian-** Privet (pronounced Pree-vyet)

**Polish-** Witaj

**French-** Bonjour

**German-** Hallo

**Italian-** Bonjournò

**Spanish-** Hola (with a silent "H")

**Swedish-** Tja (pronounced Sha)



Taiwanese- Li-Ho

Hawaiian- Aloha

Naomi Shemer, a famous Israeli song writer, wrote a really fun song about how children from different countries can all say hello to each other. You can listen to the song at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHbCC8CH6VY&feature=related>

*Last night, my sarta told me a story about my ima. It is a story that happened a few years ago, a story that I know well, but I still love hearing it. This is what she told me:*

*As you know, ima worked in a sewing factory making uniforms for soldiers. One day the workers were told that the factory would be shut down. Ima came home and was upset! She was crying and I tried to comfort her. She asked, "What will we do? How will we be able to pay the bills?" She was so unhappy, but we all know that your ima is quite a strong woman and she doesn't give in easily. She and her friends came up with a plan.*

*The next day, your mother and the other workers went into the factory and sat down. They announced that they wouldn't move from the factory until they were promised that they would not lose their jobs! The women brought toys into the building so that their kids could join them and play. My sarta told me that I was just a baby, but every day I would*



come and play in the factory. The women slept there, ate there, and lived there for six weeks. Finally, the bosses gave in. They told the women that they could buy the factory and continue working. The women discussed it, and decided to do just that! They bought the factory and continued to work there for many years.

My sarta told me that the reason she loves telling me this story is because the women of Mitzpe Ramon are special and strong. I know that one day I will grow up to become one of these courageous women!

**STRIKE!**  
**We shall not  
be moved!**

### Point to Ponder - Courageous Women

The women of Mitzpe Ramon showed extraordinary courage and strength. Can you think of another Jewish woman role model who has these characteristics?

Now that you have heard about my mother and sarta, I want to stop for a moment and tell you more about where I live.



Mitzpe Ramon has something that makes it really special - its view. When I look out of my window, I really feel the desert life. I see rolling hills made of sand, lots of open areas, and occasionally I even



see camels roaming on the roads! Do you have camels where you live in New Jersey?

Most of all, what makes Mitzpe Ramon so special is Machtesh Ramon, the Ramon Crater. It is about five minutes walking distance from my house. Do you know what a crater is?

Most craters are formed when a meteor, a large rock from outer space, hits the earth, creating a large hole. However, Machtesh Ramon is different. A long, long time ago, the entire Negev was covered by an ocean. The water started to move, mountains rose from the pressure, and a huge crack formed in the earth. Over time, the crack became deeper and wider, forming a massive crater. The crater is 25 miles long, and around 5 miles wide.

### Did You Know?

Machtesh Ramon is the largest crater of its kind in the world!



My brother, Shai, knows all about the Ramon Crater. He is 20 years old and learns in the yeshiva in Mitzpe Ramon.

But in his free time, he is a tour guide around the crater. Last week, I had vacation so he took me on a private tour, just him and me.

He took me to the very tip on the edge, overlooking the entire crater. It felt like I was standing on the edge of the world.

All day we climbed down the crater and saw some beautiful animals nearby. My brother then took me to a part of the crater called the "Saw Mill." The "Saw Mill" is a hill made of sand covered in stones. These stones were formed by a volcano which once erupted. The hot lava from the volcano covered and melted the sandstone. When it cooled down, these unique rocks were formed. I took a picture and I am sending it to give you an idea as to how amazing it is!



I told my brother that I was fascinated by the interesting shape of these stones. He said that there are also many things such as: bricks, ceramics and roof tiles, that are made from the rocks and soil in the Makhtesh.



We continued walking and I noticed lots of colors throughout the crater. My brother took me to the colored sand park, where there were all kinds of sand piles of different colors, gathered from around the crater. My brother had an empty bottle. I took the bottle and filled it up, layer by layer, with the different color sands, so I could remember this day forever. Overall it was a really fun hike and a great day. I would love to do this hike with you some day.

I have told you a little about my town and my family but there is so much more to tell. I really hope that one day you can come visit us and I will take you around Mitzpe Ramon.

I can't wait for your next letter. Every day I will check my mailbox!

Please write soon!

Your pen pal,  
Revital

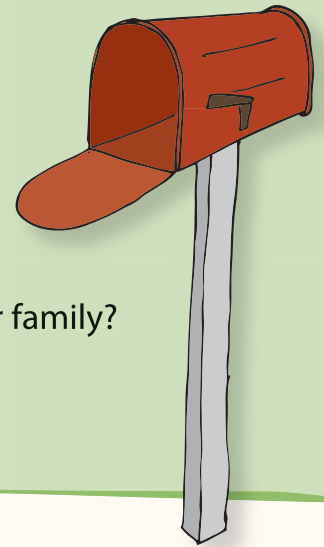


## Activity 2

### Write Back!

Pretend Revital is your pen pal. You have just received this letter. What else would you want to know about Mitzpe Ramon? What else would you want to know about her and her family?

Write a follow-up letter to Revital asking your questions.



There are many other fabulous places in the Negev such as Ein Gedi, the Dead Sea and Masada. We will learn about these places in other units.



*Ein Gedi*



*The Dead Sea*



*Masada*

In the next lesson, you will learn about the southernmost city in the Negev. Do you know what city this is? Take a guess and then look at the next page to see if you are right.



# LESSON 4



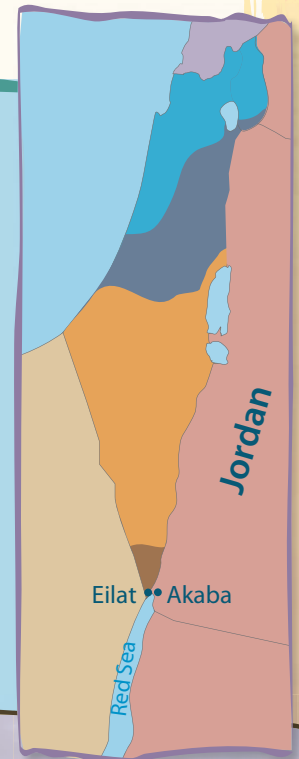
## EILAT

---

You're here! Oh, wow! We are so excited that you came to join us on our family trip to Eilat. MOM! DAD! They're here! It's so fantastic that so many of you have come, I am sure that this will be a great trip. There is so much to do in Eilat and we have a full day planned. I hope you are ready!

### **Did You Know?**

- Eilat is the southernmost city in Israel. That means that it is at the very bottom of the map of Israel. Take a look at the map and point to the city of Eilat.
- Eilat lies on the Red Sea. It has a port that ships goods, such as cars, wheat and oil, in and out of the country to places far away.
- King Solomon was the first to build a port there for his fleet of ships.
- When Eilat was conquered by Israel in 1949, there were only two buildings there. Today, Eilat is an exciting, fun city that is visited each year by many thousands of tourists from all over the world. It has warm weather all year long.
- Akaba, a Jordanian city nearby, can be easily seen from Eilat.



Enough talk for now, let's get on the bus and get started.

### Schedule: Eilat

- 10:00 - Snorkeling around the Coral Reef
- 12:00 - Dolphin Reef  
(Scuba Diving with the dolphins)
- 1:30 - Lunch on the beach
- 2:00 - Hike in the Red Canyon
- 5:00 - Return home

## Snorkeling in the Coral Reef

Hello and welcome! Today you are going to be snorkeling in the Red Sea. As you snorkel, you will see many different types of sea life, including the Coral Reef. Are you ready to dive? Go get your snorkeling gear and let's jump into that water!

Take a look around, what do you see?

Over there, you can see coral.



## What Is a Coral Reef?

Picture yourself standing in a garden. It is a garden full of different types of flowers and plants. There are tall trees and short plants that grow close to the ground. There are flowers of all kinds. The colors range from every color in the rainbow. There are shades of reds and blues, greens and yellows. Not only are there many different flowers and plants, but there are many animals who live in the garden as well. The bees buzz around the flowers, while a ladybug crawls along a leaf. Snails can be found hiding in the depths of the shadows as the squirrel is trying to gather some food to bring home.

Now, picture yourself underwater. You are in a coral reef. A coral reef is just like a garden, but underwater. It is an area made up of many corals. A coral looks like an underwater flower. It is nice to look at and comes in many different colors. It can be tall and big, and can also be small and grow close to the bottom of the ocean. However, unlike a flower, coral is not soft and silky like the petals of a flower, but is hard and feels like a shell.

Just like in a garden, there are also many different types of creatures that live among the coral reef. Our coral reef in Eilat has become home to various types of fish in many different shades and colors. While snorkeling, take a look around. You can see fish, sea turtles, sea urchins, oysters, dolphins and many other types of sea life. Just like the garden that gives animals their food and shelter, so too the reef gives these animals food, a home and a place that helps them grow.





## Activity 1

Take a look at the following pictures. Each of these fish can be found living in the Coral Reef in Eilat.

What is similar about all of these fish? What is different?



All of these fish are very colorful! Yet, each of these fish is a different size and shape. Think of some reasons why it is important for fish to have a specific color. Why is it important for their shapes to be different? List as many reasons as you can. When you are done, check your answers here.

- Warning- Some poisonous fish have bright colors. They use their color as a message to all the other fish. The bright color tells the other fish that they are dangerous. These brightly colored fish are confident and looking for food. When another fish sees these brightly colored poisonous fish, it sends the message "stay away!"
- Camouflage- Sometimes a fish will not have bright colors. Instead, it will have more neutral colors that blend in with its surroundings. These fish are trying to blend in and hide from other fish that might be dangerous to them. In this case, their color helps them survive in their home territory.
- Communication- Same color patterns show a fish that they are of the same kind. This allows them to communicate with each other.



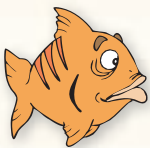
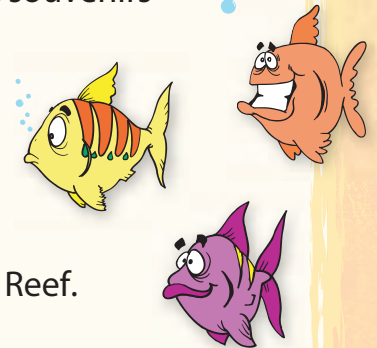
- Girl/Boy- In certain fish, male colors are different than female colors.
- Old/Young- Many fish, as they grow older, will change their colors. This helps differentiate the young from the old.

## Ecology and the Coral Reef

As we learn about the Coral Reef in Eilat, it is important to say that the Coral Reef is endangered. This means that if we don't take care of the reef properly, it could be destroyed in a matter of years. The Coral Reef in Eilat is endangered for a number of reasons:

- Visitors don't treat it well, and break off pieces of the coral as souvenirs
- Boats and ships damage it from above
- Illegal fishing harm the fish that live in the reef
- Sewage floats into the reef and damages it

Here in Eilat, we try our hardest to preserve and protect the Coral Reef.



### Did You Know?

Schools in Eilat participate in helping to preserve the Coral Reef. The 5th and 6th graders are given small pieces of coral that have broken off from the reef, to care for and help grow. They photograph it as it grows, and nurture it for the year. At the end of the year, they come to the reef and see their coral get reattached to the reef.



## Save the Coral Reef

It may feel like we live far away from the Coral Reef in Eilat, and because of this, we can't do much to help. However, there is a lot that we can do!

### Things You Can Do to Help the Coral Reef:

1. Recycle!
2. Don't pollute! Make sure those cans and garbage don't end up in our beautiful oceans.
3. Become a member of your local aquarium or zoo. Ask them what they are doing to help save the world's coral reefs.
4. Visit the Coral Reef! When you visit, keep it healthy by following the instructions.
5. Spread the word!



## Dolphin Reef

Welcome to Dolphin Reef! Have any of you ever seen a dolphin? Have any of you ever had the chance to get close to a real dolphin? Well today, at Dolphin Reef, you will have the chance! Here we can swim with the dolphins!

### Fun Fact



- Dolphins always look like they have a smile on their face
- They like to play
- They are generally very social and like to swim together with other dolphins
- Dolphins make a whistling sound to communicate with other dolphins
- They are among the most intelligent animals



At Dolphin Reef in Eilat, the dolphins swim around freely in the Red Sea, their natural home. Here, they hunt for food, play, and socialize with other dolphins. You can watch them play from above by standing on one of the floating piers and you can even jump in and swim with them.

When people swim in Dolphin Reef, the dolphins often come and play with them. If we are lucky today, maybe a dolphin will come and swim with us!

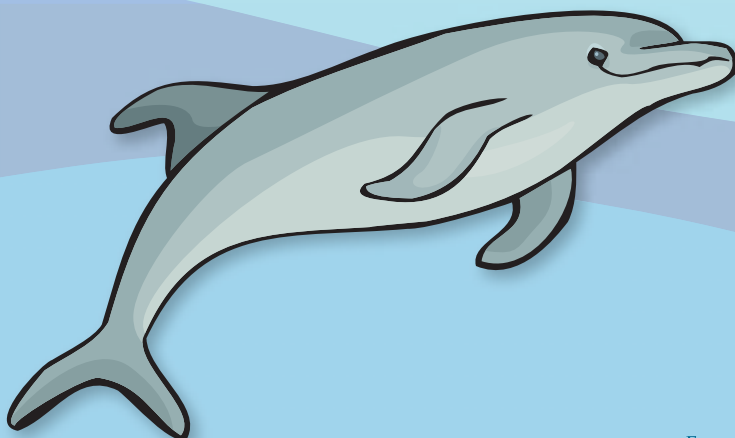


### Point to Ponder

How would you feel if a dolphin chose to approach and swim near you?

Look, here comes Cindy swimming towards us, inviting us to play with him. He is 30 years old and came here from the Black Sea in 1990. He is the father of all the dolphins born at the reef and is called, "King of the Reef." Hey, there he is jumping into the air.

Swimming next to Cindy is Shy. She is a mother of many of the dolphins in the reef and she is even a grandmother.





## Activity 2

Read this newspaper article from the Jerusalem Post:

### **Eilat Dolphin Rescue, No Fish Story**

Friday, July 5, 2002 - It sounds like a scene out of the old television series Flipper. According to eyewitness reports, a four-meter-long tiger shark was spotted heading rapidly towards Eilat's northern beach on Wednesday.

Acting like navy patrolmen, six dolphins swam toward the sharp-toothed enemy - which can be dangerous to humans - and formed a circle around it. They pummeled the shark with their noses and tails until the shark realized he had no chance and quickly headed out to sea. The dolphins are being hailed in the media as heroes of the hour...



Wow! Swimming with the dolphins made me really hungry. Lucky for us there are many delicious restaurants all over Eilat. Let's go for lunch so that we can make it to the Red Canyon before sunset.





## The Red Canyon

Have you ever seen a red mountain before?

### **Fun Fact**



The Red Canyon gets its name from the red sandstone that covers the area. This special color makes the area around Eilat so very different from any other place in Israel.

As we hike through the Red Canyon there is so much to see. Over there we can see the different shades of colors on the rocks. The colors come together, forming what looks like red waves in an ocean.

As we walk through, look at the canyon walls. They form such interesting shapes. Take a look at this picture. Part of this canyon looks like it is the shape of a face.



This is my favorite part of the hike. We will climb up this high point (I hope you are not afraid of heights) and then we will slide down this chute! It is a natural smooth slide, going down one part of the mountain.

Wow! Our group made it through this hike in record time! This was a fantastic trip to Eilat.

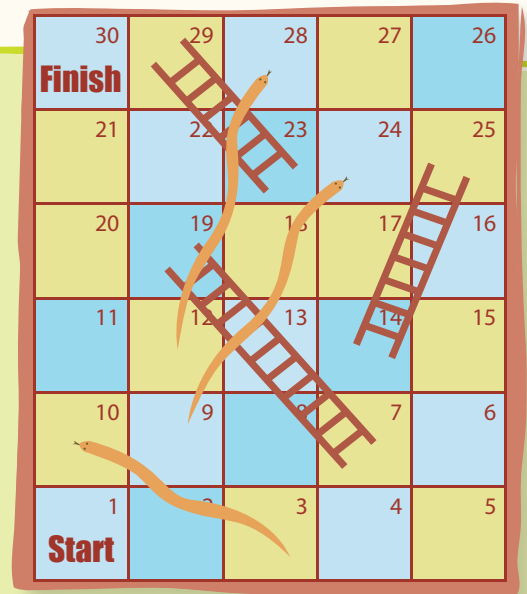
### Activity 3

#### Test Your Knowledge of Eilat

Cut up small pieces of paper to use as your game pieces.

Rules of the Game: Your teacher will split up the class into teams, then ask a question and each team must write down the answer.

Each team that gets an answer right has the choice to move forward one or two spaces. If your team answers wrong, you must move back one space. The first team to the finish line, wins. If your team reaches the bottom of a ladder, it can climb to the top. If it reaches the head of a snake, it should slide down.



#### Questions:

1. When looking at a map of Israel, which direction should you look in order to find Eilat?
2. On which sea does Eilat lie?
3. How many buildings were in Eilat in 1949?
4. True or False: Coral can only be found in the color white.
5. Name two animals which can be found around the Coral Reef.
6. Name one reason why fish are very colorful.
7. Name one reason why the Coral Reef is endangered.
8. Name one thing that we can do at home to help save the Coral Reef.
9. Name one of the dolphins that can be found at the Dolphin Reef.
10. Tell the class one true fact about dolphins.
11. There was an article about the dolphins. What happened?
12. How did the Red Canyon get its name?
13. Name two things that can be found in the Red Canyon.
14. What is the weather usually like in Eilat?
15. Name two things that are essential to bring with you on your trip to Eilat.

I hope you enjoyed your trip to Eilat. There is so much more to do there so I hope you come back soon.



### Activity 4

#### The Negev Brochure

You have been hired by an advertising agency to make a brochure that will encourage tourists to come visit the Negev. What would you write to show people that they should come and spend their vacation in the Negev?

## Come to the Negev...

You might think that the Negev is a dry desert, the very last place to spend your vacation. But, boy, are you wrong!

Here are a couple of reasons why the Negev is the best place to spend your next vacation:



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

In these lessons we have learned about the Negev. We have seen that even though it is very dry and hot, it has many fabulous, fun and interesting places. We have also seen how Israel has worked hard to bring life to the Negev.

Why don't you come and visit it.





**The Lookstein Center for Jewish Education**

School of Education, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, 52900 Israel

Tel: 972-3-531-8199 | Fax: 972-3-535-1912

[info@lookstein.org](mailto:info@lookstein.org) [www.lookstein.org](http://www.lookstein.org)