

Lesson Plan 1 & 2: Introduction to Judaism

Name: Allison Gant
Ages of Students: Seniors
Lesson Title: Introduction to Judaism

Date of Lesson:
Number of Students: 30

Focus Standards:

SL 1: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 11-12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

Objectives/Learning Targets: After reading Weissbach and watching introduction videos about Judaism in general, Kosher eating, various Jewish holidays, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah's, students will gain a greater understanding of KY Jewish history and of multiple Jewish life-cycle events and ritual practices: dietary laws/observing kashrut/kosher-eating, holidays including Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Passover, and Hanukkah, Bar/Bat Mitzvah's, stereotypes, discrimination, entrepreneurship, Israel, and women's rights.

Length of Lesson: 2 Days (1 hour each lesson)

Day 1: Introduction to unit, introduction to Judaism (Kentucky Jewish History and Jewish Culture videos, Weissbach and Dembitz readings) and discussion

Day 2: Introduction to Jewish practices (My Jewish Learning Videos) and discussion

Homework day 1: students will have listened to the following podcast

- <https://www.npr.org/templates/transcript/transcript.php?storyId=602678381&ft=nrml&f=510312>

Homework day 2: students will have read the following

- Weissbach_Kentuckys Jewish History in National Perspective - The Era of Mass Migration.pdf
- <http://www.isjl.org/kentucky-encyclopedia.html>
- Each student will come with 1 discussion question prepared based on the readings

Notes and Concepts: See Slides below

Class Practice: Class discussion

Slides for Lessons 1 and 2:

How has Jewish life in Kentucky changed across generations?

Unit 1

In this unit you will...

- ▶ Explore Jewish life and practices across generations
 - ▶ Holidays
 - ▶ Kosher eating
 - ▶ Bar/Bat Mitzvah's
 - ▶ Entrepreneurship
 - ▶ Stereotypes
 - ▶ Persecution
 - ▶ More
- ▶ Explore a new type of research/primary source: Oral Histories
- ▶ Learn how to identify reliable sources through research
- ▶ Explore how Jewish life has changed across generations
- ▶ Present your findings to the class with your group

Game Plan

- ▶ Crash course in Kentucky Jewish History and Introduction to Jewish practices
- ▶ What are oral histories?
- ▶ How do I research?
- ▶ Collaborative Work
- ▶ Final Presentations

What you'll presenting...

- ▶ Research Question: How has Jewish life changed across generations?
- ▶ Over the course of the next couple weeks you will be learning about different aspects of Jewish life and culture including holidays, Kosher eating, Bar/Bat Mitzvah's, stereotypes, persecution, and more. You will also be exposed to a new type of history called oral histories. Through the use of the oral histories and your own research, you will pick a topic within Jewish life to further research and and explore how this Jewish practice has changed in Kentucky over time.

Where do I begin?

- ▶ Our class will use excerpts/segments of oral histories to start off with. I will select segments of oral histories from various people that represent an aspect of Jewish life. You will use this segment to base your research off of depending on which practice you have chosen. You will use this as one of your sources. From there, you will research your practice using scholarly sources and other oral histories.
- ▶ In groups of 4, you will pick an aspect of Jewish life you and your groupmates are most interested in and present your finding about generational changes

Jewish History & Practices

What is Judaism?

- ▶ What do you know about Judaism?
- ▶ What do you know about “covenants”?
- ▶ Who are Abraham, Moses, Isaac, and Jacob?
- ▶ What does Diaspora mean?
- ▶ <http://www.oprah.com/belief/introduction-to-Judaism>



Member's of Whose Tribe?

- ▶ How do we define Jewish identity?
 - ▶ Religiously?
 - ▶ Racially?
 - ▶ Culturally?
- ▶ What is Anti-Semitism?



Short class discussion about the podcast students listened to for homework

Holidays

- ▶ What are some Jewish holidays you know of?



Holidays Cont.

- ▶ Rosh Hashanah: the Jewish new year!
 - ▶ Some observances include: Praying in synagogue, personal reflection, and hearing the shofar
 - ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AuMXq5sHDw>
- ▶ Yom Kippur: holiest day of the year in Judaism
 - ▶ Some observances include: fasting, prayer, abstaining from physical pleasures, refraining from work
 - ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oqBzg8wCUG&t=3s>
- ▶ Passover: the major Jewish spring festival that commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery
 - ▶ Some observances include: lighting candles, eating food, & more.
 - ▶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_MfOJVvP0Y

Holidays Cont.

- ▶ Hanukkah
 - ▶ Some observances include: lighting the menorah, eating fried foods, and more
 - ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvFqBimGulQ>
- ▶ Sabbath
 - ▶ a day of religious observance and abstinence from work, kept by Jews from Friday evening to Saturday evening
 - ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjmjZWHXKFY>

Kosher Eating

- ▶ What do you know about eating Kosher or “Kashrut”?



Kosher or Kashrut

- ▶ The preparation of food according to the requirements of Jewish law.
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYk0KeYhqYQ>

Bar/Bat Mitzvah's

- ▶ What do you know about Bar or Bat Mitzvah's?

Bar/Bat Mitzvah's cont.

- ▶ The coming of age for a Jewish boy or girl
- ▶ Bar=for boys
- ▶ Bat= for girls
- ▶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqTO9BID_Xs

Jewish Life in Kentucky

Day 2

Judaism in KY

- ▶ The Jewish people have a long and complicated history in Kentucky...
- ▶ Jewish population in Louisville as of 2015 ~8,500
 - ▶ From JewishLouisville.org
- ▶ Jewish population in Lexington as of 2015~3,500
 - ▶ From Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass
- ▶ There is no single story about the Jewish population in Kentucky
- ▶ Each story is unique...



Kentucky's Jewish History in National Perspective - The Era of Mass Migration

- ▶ What is one story you found interesting from the readings? Why?
- ▶ What is something you found interesting? Why?
- ▶ Why are these significant? What's the bigger picture here?
- ▶ What does this have to say about the American Jewish experience?
- ▶ Eastern European Jews vs. German Jews?
- ▶ Louisville vs. Lexington?
- ▶ What questions did you bring?