

## Treasure Hunt Preparation

The treasure hunt will help students become familiar with the months of the year and the holidays that each month contains. While we offer a suggested hunt below, it should be adapted to meet the resources of your particular synagogue. For example, if your synagogue has artwork or ritual objects that are prominently displayed, those may prove to be better locations for clues than some of the ideas listed below. Be flexible and creative, and enjoy!

**I. Suggested Locations and Actions:** We have suggested a couple of potential locations to place clues for each month. In each case, the first location is used in the hunt that we created below. The other locations are options that you may consider using as substitutes if they work better in your synagogue. General suggestions are offered at the end of this list. We have also included actions that you can instruct students to do at the given location. To prepare the actions:

- Print each action on a sign or an index card, and place at the station next to the clue for the next location.
- Instruct team leaders to ask students to complete the action before reading the next clue.
- Provide digital cameras, cell phones, or other video recording devices to document these actions. Images can be posted on a Voicethread to share the excitement with others.

### II. General Suggestions to Enhance Your Treasure Hunt:

- Space out clues as much as possible to avoid having the students figure them out. For example, do not place more than one clue at the bima or in the gift shop.
- Integrate your synagogue's prominent artwork into the treasure hunt. If there are stained-glass windows with images of Judaica, these can become a destination for your students; similarly, Jerusalem motifs, the *aron kodesh* door, plants, and other displays may be useful substitutes for the examples listed above.
- A synagogue gift shop is a good way to add real holiday Judaica into the treasure hunt if Judaica is not generally displayed in your synagogue.
- Try to stay as true to the "normal" state of your synagogue as possible. For example, if the hanukiyah is not usually lit in the lobby on Hanukah, do not place a hanukiyah in the lobby for the sake of the treasure hunt.

| Month          | Location A  | Location B   |
|----------------|---|--|
| <b>Tishrei</b> | <b>Main sanctuary where shofar is blown</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave out a shofar and alcohol wipes, and instruct students to take turns blowing the shofar.</li> <li>• Simulate blowing the shofar.</li> </ul>   | <b>Near an exit to where the sukkah stands</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave out Tinkertoys, and instruct students to build the walls of a sukkah.</li> <li>• Take a picture of students pointing to the skies, where they would see the stars if they were eating in a sukkah at night.</li> </ul>                                     |
| <b>Heshvan</b> | <b>A window to the outside with paper raindrops taped on</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruct students to dance to the song “Mayim”: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BsFiuFRZQk">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BsFiuFRZQk</a> (“Mayim” on YouTube)</li> </ul> | <b>Water fountain</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruct students to open an umbrella and stand under it.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Kislev</b>  | <b>Hanukiyah on display—might be in a gift shop or as a wall decoration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruct students to simulate lighting the hanukiyah. If they do not know the blessings, provide the text so that they can say those as well.</li> </ul>             | <b>Kitchen to prepare the latkes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a toy frying pan for students to “fry” the latkes.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Tevet</b>   | <b>Coat closet</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave out jackets and gloves, and instruct students to bundle up for the winter.</li> <li>• Leave out dolls with jackets, and instruct students to bundle up the dolls.</li> </ul>  | <b>Cornerstone or builder’s wall of synagogue to commemorate the building of the first synagogue in America, Shearith Israel. Land was purchased by the synagogue in Tevet of 1728.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave out toy hammers and other tools, and take a picture of students “breaking ground” for a new synagogue.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Shvat</b>   | <b>Tree, picture of a tree, plant, or plaque of tree</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave pennies for students to deposit into a JNF tzedakah box to help plant trees in Israel.</li> </ul>   | <b>Outside, near garden, bushes, trees, or other landscaping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave seeds, soil, and a planter, and have each group plant one seed; then photograph.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Adar</b>    | <b>Site of Purim carnival/celebration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave out masks and clown noses, and take picture of students dressed up for a Purim celebration.</li> </ul>   | <b>Site of Megillah reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave out Megillah and <i>graggers</i>, and instruct one student to say the name “Haman” so that others can respond with <i>gragger</i> noise.</li> </ul>   |

| Month | Location A  | Location B   |
|-------|---|--|
| Nisan | <p><b>Room where model seder would be held</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put out a table with a seder plate, and have students place items (toys or paper) on the seder plate.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Gift shop or elsewhere that has seder plate on display</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide students with plastic wine glasses, and take a picture of them clanking their glasses together.</li> </ul>   |
| Iyar  | <p><b>Display of an Israeli flag or a map of Israel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play “Hatikvah,” the Israeli national anthem, for students on an iPod, smartphone, or laptop, and instruct students to sing along if they know the words:<br/> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_luHgBQcbKs&amp;feature=related">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_luHgBQcbKs&amp;feature=related</a><br/> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0rVDbYqE7E&amp;feature=related">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0rVDbYqE7E&amp;feature=related</a></li> </ul> | <p><b>Any blue and white decorations in building</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play “Hatikvah” for students on an iPod, smartphone, or laptop, and instruct students to sing along if they know the words:<br/> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_luHgBQcbKs&amp;feature=related">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_luHgBQcbKs&amp;feature=related</a><br/> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0rVDbYqE7E&amp;feature=related">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0rVDbYqE7E&amp;feature=related</a></li> </ul> |
| Sivan | <p><b>Near the <i>aron kodesh</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leave out <i>talitot</i> and <i>kippot</i> for students to adorn as if they were about to be called for an aliyah to read from the Torah.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>In the library</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As it is customary to spend time studying Torah on Shavuot, leave out a few <i>humashim</i> and a list of three verses that students should look up and rewrite on a sheet of paper. Make sure to leave enough paper for all groups.</li> </ul>  |
| Tamuz | <p><b>Playground or door to outside</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instruct students to sing a song about summer.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Outside patio or in the lobby</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leave out some towels and sunglasses, and take a picture of students relaxing as if they’re on vacation.</li> </ul>   |
| Av    | <p><b>Picture of Jerusalem (hang up in classroom if none exist in the synagogue)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leave out siddurim so that students can take a picture of the class “praying” at the Kotel.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Near a <i>mizrah</i> (east) sign</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record students reading “My Heart Is in the East,” a poem written by Yehuda Halevi (c.1141) to express his desire to go to Israel:<br/> <a href="http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Zionism/halevi.html">http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Zionism/halevi.html</a></li> </ul>   |
| Elul  | <p><b>In their classroom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take a picture of students sitting in the first row of chairs, looking prepared for school to begin.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Near the clock in their classroom (as a reminder to “wake up” for the new year)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Video students pretending to sleep and then waking up at the sound of an alarm.</li> </ul>  |