

### Get Your Maj On: Learning About and From Mah Jong *Afternoon Experience*

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>AUTHOR(S):</b>        | Diana Bloom, Mara Berde, Jonah Wagan   |
| <b>TOPIC (S)</b>         | Jewish Culture, Community Building   |
| <b>SUMMARY</b>           | What lessons can Mah Jong teach us about creating rituals, traditions, and sacred spaces that we can bring to our camp communities? Join us as we learn how to play the game, explore its history, and gain admission into the world of Mah Jong.  |
| <b>GOALS:</b>            | By the end of this session, participants will be able to play a game based on a foundation of the rules while understanding the different components of the setting and space in which the game is played.   |
| <b>AUDIENCE:</b>         | A group of individuals looking to build community through play. For ease of teaching, try to have multiples of 4 with a limit of 12 participants to 1 educator.  |
| <b>TIMING:</b>           | 75 minute afternoon experience - could be split into two   |
| <b>APPENDICES:</b>       | Resource Guide   |
| <b>MATERIALS NEEDED:</b> | <p>In Person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mah Jong set per every 4 people (1 extra to show is helpful)</li> <li>• Playing Card (every table needs same year)</li> <li>• Square Card Tables with 4 chairs</li> <li>• Snacks</li> <li>• Depending on size, an easy way to show tiles like a projector and computer</li> </ul> <p>Virtual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Real Mah Jongg account for every participant (free trial for 2 weeks)<br/><a href="https://realmahjongg.com/">https://realmahjongg.com/</a></li> <li>• Meeting space (zoom with breakout rooms)</li> <li>• Playing Card (every group needs same year)</li> <li>• Demo set to show and hold up tiles for people to see (optional but nice)</li> </ul> |
| <b>SET-UP DETAILS:</b>   | <p>If in person, the setup is pretty important. You will need to make spaces for groups of 4 to play together. This includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Card table with 4 chairs per every four participants</li> <li>• 1 Mahj set per table, each already set up with walls prebuilt</li> <li>• Tables set up so that they can see a central area where the facilitator is explaining rules and dynamics of play.</li> <li>• Enough room between tables so that each group can hear each other and not hear the other tables</li> </ul>  |

## SESSION TIMELINE

10 min - Introduction with the history and why is Mah Jong a Jewish Ritual

10 min - Learning the Fundamentals

Tiles

Dealing/charleston

Reading the card

45 min - Play and Practice

5 min - Unpacking and Teaching Something New

10 min - Wrap-up & how to bring it back to camp

## SESSION OUTLINE:

Pre Meeting:

Optional news article or podcast to prime them

10 min Introduction with the history and why is Mah Jong a Jewish Ritual

- Mah Jong coming to America
- Creation of the National Mah Jong league
- Developing community
  - Table Rules
  - Snacks
  - Unified Language/Card
  - Transplanting to other groups

10 min Learning the Fundamentals (in person)

- Tiles
  - Suits
  - Quantity
  - Special Tiles
  - Rules associated with tiles (pairs, jokers, year)
- Reading the card
  - Suits - color (choice vs mandate)
  - Sections
  - Closed v Open
  - Value
- Dealing/charleston
  - ROLLOR (order)
  - Stopping the passing

## CORNERSTONE 2021 RESOURCE

- Picking a hand
- Optional pass
- Game Play (if facilitating in person, explain what players need to do here)
  - Discarding
  - Swapping Jokers
  - Calling and exposing

### 45 min Play and Practice

#### 5min Unpacking and Teaching Something New

- What was it like to learn something new?
- What are barriers that we can remove for participants for them to easily learn a new task?
  - No stress chess
  - Limiting choice for new experience

#### 10 min Wrap-up & how to bring it back to camp

- Staff engagement
- Cabin bonding
- Chug/activity
- Intergenerational opportunity and/or year round engagement
- Fundraiser