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# Israel at Camp Newman

— Summer 2025 —

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# Today's Learning

1. Brief overview of the next 90 minutes (that's this)
2. The Danger of a Single Story
3. David Cards
4. Reform Israel education goals
5. Historical Zionism
6. Zionism and the reform movement
7. Our expectations of you

# The Danger of a Single Story - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

13:45

“It is impossible to engage properly with a place or a person without engaging with all of the stories of that place and that person. The consequence of the single story is this: it robs people of dignity. It makes our recognition of our equal humanity difficult... Stories can break the dignity of a people but stories can also repair that broken dignity... When we reject the single story, when we realize that there is never a single story about a place, we regain a kind of paradise”

# An Example



## Sharing Some of Our Stories

- Pick a card on your table that best describes your relationship with Israel.
- One at a time, explain why you each chose the card that you did.

## What role will Israel play at camp this summer?

- Torah Lishmah
- Erev Am Yisrael
- Relationships with Mishlachah
- Israeli Dancing
- T'fillah

# The Reform Movement's Goals of Israel Education

- Learners are able to articulate Israel's role as a central force in the narrative of the Jewish people from Biblical times to the present.
- Learners are able to articulate Hebrew's role as a central force in the narrative of the Jewish people from Biblical times to the present.

# The Reform Movement's Goals of Israel Education

- Learners can interpret and engage with the depth and breadth of Zionist thought as they seek to articulate their own personal understanding of the term.
- Learners demonstrate the capacity to recognize multiple narratives of Israel as a modern state while simultaneously constructing and developing their own unique narrative of Israel's role in their lives and in the life of the Jewish people  
Learners have a facility with Israeli cultural expression (including Israeli Reform Jewish expression) and explore its relationship to their sense of self.

# The Reform Movement's Goals of Israel Education

- Learners can hold in tension the image of Israel as a religious and spiritual focal point (yerushalayim shel mala) and as a real, live, messy, and human place (yerushalayim shel mata)
- Learners are able to tell the origin stories of the many ethnic, cultural, and religious groups that make up Israeli society.
- Learners can continuously discern which information sources about Israel are reliable and legitimate and explain their stance regarding the content they consume.

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- Learners can hold in tension the image of Israel as a religious and spiritual focal point (yerushalayim shel mala) and as a real, live, messy, and human place (yerushalayim shel mata)
- Learners are able to tell the origin stories of the many ethnic, cultural, and religious groups that make up Israeli society.
- Learners can continuously discern which information sources about Israel are reliable and legitimate and explain their stance regarding the content they consume.

# Engaging with many stories of Zionism

- In your family group, read about your assigned “type” of Zionism.
- Based on the research guide, make a list of 3-5 bullet points describing your type of Zionism’s ideology.
- Elect one representative to share out to the group.

# Political Zionism

- Late 19th/early 20th century
- Led by Theodor Herzl and others... not native to Israel's land
- Believed that Judaism was an ethnicity
- Reaction to pogroms, antisemitism happening in Europe
- Believed Jews needed a safe country to live in... weren't attached to the specific land - thought about Uganda

# Labor Zionism

- Started in the late 19th, early 20th century
- Pushed forth an idea of realistic socialism
- Kibbutzim -
- Holocaust survivors moved to Kibbutzim around Israel
- Building from the ground up, animals, gardens, communal living
- No emphasis on Jewish law
- Socialism!
- Living together

# Religious Zionism

- Founded on the idea that you can't fully practice Judaism if you are not in the land of Israel
- Fought against the idea of secular Zionism
- Trying to rescue Jews in danger
- Establishing a Jewish state as a means of achieving religious objectives
- Land as inseparable from the Jewish people
- Based in religious theology
- Zionism as the beginning of Messianic age

# Cultural Zionism

- Israel should be a state focused on Jewish culture
- Music, art, language etc.
- Inspire rest of

# Revisionist Zionism

- Founded in 1925
- Mass immigration to and settlement in Palestine
- Major beef with labor Zionist party
- Did not trust the British
- Believed strongly in fighting for the land

# Diaspora Zionism

- Disagree with religious and revisionist Zionism
- Diaspora - Jews living outside of Israel
- Being a Zionist makes you a better American
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# What is Reform Zionism?

Reform Zionism accepts and supports the foundational aim of Zionism: the establishment of a Jewish State in Israel, the homeland of the Jewish people.

Reform Zionism is a continuation of the early Zionist dream to foster a living, breathing national culture that represents the highest ideals of Jewish peoplehood. Foremost among these ideals is for Jews to be free and liberated citizens of the world who also contribute as Jews to our global civilization.

The work of Zionism did not end when the State of Israel was established in 1948. As Reform Zionists, we strive to make the State of Israel a true inheritor of the prophetic tradition of the Jewish people: a nation devoted to pursuing justice and creating a complete world.

Our love for Israel is channeled into efforts that advance the vision of what we believe Israel can – and must – yet be.

# What is Reform Zionism?

We believe that a Jewish state must be a democratic state that celebrates the pluralism of Jewish practice and identity.

We celebrate the notion of *k'lal Yisrael*, the unity of the Jewish people.

We seek to integrate Jewish tradition into the realities of the modern world, believing in individuals' right to shape their own Jewish identity and way of life.

We are part of an active, global network of Jews of all ages, united by our love for Israel and our commitment to securing an Israel that fulfills the promise of its founding document:

“THE STATE OF ISRAEL will ... foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education, and culture....”

We advocate for Israel as it should be and as it must become: a society that reflects both democratic values and religious pluralism.

## What we expect of you

- We do not expect you to be experts in Israel education, but we do expect you to know who to go to when issues come up.
- Shosh is your primary point of contact for all things Israel - she will help get you or your camper where they need to go, whether that's an Israel-related Torah Lishmah or a one-on-one with a faculty member or a meeting with Nefesh
- We expect you to treat Israel conversations with the same care as other sensitive topics

**Questions?**