

JUST FOR KIDS – MAY 2026

From April:

YOM HA'ATZMAUT – APRIL 22 (ages 10 and up) **video**

Originally this day was celebrated on May 14. Later, it was changed to the 5th day of Iyar, which this year falls on April 22. This is the national independence day of Israel. It celebrates the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. It is celebrated in Israel and around the world with dancing, fireworks, parties and the popular "mangal," or Israeli style barbecue. It is also common to decorate public and private spaces with Israeli flags. Here is a video to tell you more about how it started and how it is celebrated throughout the world.

<https://youtu.be/OqXg5e1sg5s>

MAY HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS MONTH

Did you know Asian Pacific Islanders are made up of people from 50 different countries? Watch this short video to learn about some of the customs and achievements of Asian Pacific Islanders

<http://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/6413d175-574f-4978-aca5-68886e12ae50/asian-pacific-american-heritage-month-all-about-the-holidays/?student=true&focus=true>

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: MAY 4-8

Teaching is one of the world's most important professions. That's why, every May, we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week to honor all the teachers in our lives who have helped us learn and grow. This short video will tell you how it got started and how you can celebrate our teachers.

<http://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/fe0c21b4-085c-4e08-8110-da84673ce9fc/teacher-appreciation-week-all-about-the-holidays/?student=true&focus=true>

MOTHER'S DAY – MAY 10

Mother's Day is a special holiday where we honor the mothers in our lives. The idea started during the Civil War. Mother's Day is a day to celebrate everything that mothers do. Watch this video to see how it evolved into a national holiday.

<https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/237e1bc3-f094-4d65-bdb3-e43e565fa4f9/mothers-day-all-about-the-holidays/?student=true&focus=true>

LAG BA'OMER – Sundown MAY4 – Sundown MAY 5 (ages 5 and up) **video**

Lag Ba'Omer is a fun, joyous Jewish holiday that takes place in the springtime, usually in May. It is a break from a sadder period of time and is celebrated with bonfires, picnics, and playing outdoors.

WHAT IS LAG BA'OMER? (ages 5 and up) **video**

Rabbi Dr. Eliyahu Yoggev explains this holiday to you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCz0VuV4XOk>

WHAT IS LAG BA'OMER? (ages 10 and up) **text and videos**

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/2573462/jewish/What-Is-Lag-BaOmer.htm

MEMORIAL DAY – MAY 25 (ages 8 and up) **video**

Watch this video to learn about this holiday that honors soldiers who died in war. Learn how we celebrate it and why it was first called Decoration Day.

<https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/87a8f1c1-a555-448a-9aae-78a7b9110375/memorial-day-all-about-the-holidays/?student=true&focus=true>

STORIES

TEACHER APPRECIATION

THANK YOU MR. FALKER by Patricia Polacco (ages 7-12) **Read aloud**

When Patricia was a little girl, she could paint and draw beautifully, but when she looked at words on a page, all she could see was jumble. It took a very special teacher, Mr. Falker, to see that she had a disability called dyslexia. He encouraged her to overcome her reading disability, and Patricia Polacco, who is a famous author today, will never forget him.

<https://youtu.be/T31xdMyV3-c>

MOTHER'S DAY

WHAT NOT TO GIVE YOUR MOM ON MOTHER'S DAY by Martha Simpson (ages 3-6) **Read aloud**

Would you give your mom a mud puddle? A rotten log? This book will make you giggle as you read the advice on what NOT to give your mom for Mother's Day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCrlI4vGmAU>

THE BEST MOTHER by C. M. Surrisi and Diane Goode (ages 4-6) **Read aloud**

When Maxine wakes up on the wrong side of the bed one morning, she wonders if the problem might be her mother. What if she could try out a new mom who doesn't make her brush her teeth or comb her hair? With her mom's help, Maxine interviews other ladies in the park to be her new mom. Guess what she finds out?

<https://youtu.be/PqWDU-LfBlS>

LOVE YOU FOREVER by Robert Munsch (ages 7 to adult) **Read aloud**

Can you imagine being all grown up and still being your mother's baby? This beautiful story will remind you that no matter how grown up you are, you're never too old to be loved by your parents.

<https://youtu.be/70aHBZEbrxo>

SIGNS OF SPRING

THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR by Eric Carle (ages 3-6) **animated**

IT'S SPRING! Have you seen any caterpillars yet? When this little caterpillar hatches from his egg, he's very hungry. Watch this animated film to see him eat his way through the week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQK-Sm1YY>

BUTTERFLIES by Melvin and Gilda Berger by Eric Carle (ages 3-6) **Read aloud**

Did you know butterflies taste the flower with their feet and that caterpillars change their skin 4 or 5 times? After watching The Hungry Caterpillar, you will enjoy this non-fiction book. It has some fun facts about butterflies and beautiful photographs

<https://youtu.be/aWNwvAgrzs0>

THE CARROT SEED by Ruth Krauss (ages 3-6) **Read aloud**

This is the time that many people are starting to plant their gardens with vegetables they will pick later. It takes patience and care for that to happen, as the little boy in this story knows.

<https://youtu.be/3Fzknh2ej5Q>

THE TINY SEED by Eric Carle (ages 4-8) **Read aloud**

Watch and listen as The Tiny Seed travels through the seasons on an adventure of a lifetime!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIDOMQPptOM>

MUSIC

ISRAEL

HATIKVAH (ages 8 and up) **video**

When the State of Israel was established in 1948, Hatikvah was unofficially proclaimed the national anthem. Its title means "The Hope". This anthem speaks of the establishment of a sovereign and free nation-- the Land of Israel. In November 2004, it officially became law that the Hatikvah is Israel's national anthem.

Watch this video and follow along with the words in Hebrew and the English translation.

<https://israelforever.org/interact/multimedia/hatikvah/>

ACTIVITIES

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

Check out these different activities for celebrating Israel—from making hummus to making flags and more.

<https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/march-2021/yom-haazmaut-activities>

You can also choose from many different pictures about Israel that you can print out and color!

https://coloringpagesonly.com/pages/israel-coloring-pages#google_vignette

Check this out:

CHILDREN'S BOOKS THAT CORRELATE WITH THIS MONTH'S TOPICS AVAILABLE TO BORROW FROM OUR SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY

LAG BA'OMER

1. Sadie's Lag Ba' Omer Mystery, Jamie Korngold
2. Pearl Moscowitz's Last Stand, Arthur A. Levine (FICTION)

ISRAEL

1. A Young Person's History of Israel, David Bamberger) (NONFICTION)
2. Journey to Jerusalem, Sara Bertisch (*2 copies*) (NONFICTION)
3. Good Night Israel, Mark Jasper and Anne Rosen (*board book*) (NONFICTION)
4. Dinosaur Goes to Israel, Diane Levin Rauchwerger (FICTION)
5. The Fifth Wheel (Kibbutz life), Moshe Shamir (NONFICTION)
6. A Concert In The Sand, Tami Shem-Tov and Rachella Sandbank (FICTION)