



CREATE YOUR OWN CORNERSTONE

This project was created to give you a great way to celebrate Jerusalem both on the anniversary of the reunification of the city in 1967 and throughout the entire year.

We encourage you to reflect with your students upon Yerushalayim Shel Zahav (Jerusalem of Gold) and what this beautiful city means to YOU, as well as to the generations that came before us. Your Jerusalem Cornerstone can be as detailed or as simple as you'd like. You are the artist, and this is your expression of love, connection and commitment to the future of Jerusalem, Tzion and Am Yisrael.

This can be used as a classroom lesson, an activity run by a youth group leader, community educator, or by parents, or even a craft activity to do on your own. Times are to be used as a suggestion. The amount of time spent depends on the educator running the activity/lesson.

Time: This activity can be run for ideally for several sessions of an hour each, or can be adapted for a 30/45 min activity (minimum time) to suit any group or learning environment.

Note that some of the tasks require materials to be left overnight to dry before continuing with the final stages.

Age: For children and adults of all ages

OBJECTIVES

- To learn about Jerusalem
- To learn about the Jewish tradition to leave a corner, or a small part of our house unfinished, and why we do this
- To learn about Jerusalem and our Jewish connection to it
- To understand why Jerusalem is such an important part of our Jewish identity
- To create a unique Jerusalem Cornerstone art piece

ACTIVITY INTRODUCTION/GETTING STARTED

Briefly discuss with your students/campers the history of [the reunification of Jerusalem](#) (and some information about [the Six Day War](#)), taking care to keep the discussion age-appropriate.

Show a sample of what a Jerusalem cornerstone is and what they can look like. Ask students if any of them has ever seen a Jewish home with a corner/area left unfinished inside (show some photos as examples), and if they know or have an idea of why they do. Explain and show students that designing their own Jerusalem Cornerstone with artwork reflects upon the importance of Jerusalem and the anniversary of its reunification. Show the students some information about the [Jerusalem Cornerstone Project](#) and briefly discuss what its about.

Encourage students to be creative - they can decorate their Jerusalem Cornerstone with anything they'd like! Whatever makes them think of Jerusalem: a Magen David (Star of David), a hamsa, a picture or drawing of the Kotel (Western Wall) with some green patches poking out in random places (crinkled up green tissue paper works really well for recreating this), the Israeli flag, the Jerusalem lion, the Beitar Yerushalayim team logo (for sports lovers), a drawing of their favorite building like the Israel Museum or the Montefiore windmill, etc.

Mention an additional option of painting/writing one of the Jerusalem quotes on their cornerstone at the end, once they have finished making their cornerstone. Look at some of the quotes and reflect upon what Jerusalem means to us as a nation and as individuals. Everyone should select a quote that touches their heart, or they can write their own from their heart. Tell students to write their chosen quote onto their Cornerstone (this will be the final stage of the project).

Discuss with the students (briefly) the various Cornerstone activities listed below.

ACTIVITIES

From the provided activities, select one or more that will work best for the time allotted and age/skill of the students. Students who are doing the same activity, if more than one is offered, should work at the same table (so resources can be organized and shared appropriately).

PART 1: COLORS OF JERUSALEM STONE

Activity Introduction: Ask students if they know about Jerusalem stone, what color it is and how all the buildings in the city are made from this stone. Jerusalem stone has a beautiful array of colors that range from beige, pink, gold, and tawny brown. Show some pictures of this. Tell students that they have the opportunity to make their cornerstone (or cornerstone background) to match the colors of the actual stones of Jerusalem.

Note: this is something optional that can be done either as the background of your cornerstone or as an activity by itself.

Supplies Needed:

- Poster board, cardboard, or paper (or other material to use as a base) of any size cut into rectangular shapes
- Pencils, scissors, etc.
- Paints in various colors and the appropriate painting supplies: bowls for paint distribution, water buckets, paper towels, sponges, etc.

Directions:

- 1) Cut your paper to any size rectangle you'd like.
- 2) Use a pencil to lightly sketch your quote and artistic design (to be finished in later stages, see below)
- 3) To make the cornerstone look like a piece of Jerusalem stone, sponge paint the background of your stone (to give it the right "texture") before working on the rest of your design.
- 4) To get the stone color, mix brown and white paint to get the color of your liking.
- 5) You can add a touch of yellow to give it a golden look, or you can add a touch of pink (red and white paint make pink).
- 6) Use sponges to apply the paint to the background of your rectangular cornerstone.
- 7) Let dry.
- 8) The next step is up to you: finish your stone here, add one of the Part 2 activities, or add a quote about Jerusalem (see part 3). You can also add crumpled green tissue paper to get the look of the plants that grown in Jerusalem's walls.

PART 2: CREATE YOUR OWN CORNERSTONE CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Activity Introduction: Choose or have the students choose from the following activities, which will allow them to create a truly unique cornerstone. Each of the following activities has its own materials and instructions, and they should be evaluated for suitability to the time and participants involved in the project.

Jerusalem Collage Art

Decoupage is a collage art of layering paper to create an image. It can be a crazy retro-style collage of a mashup of images, a bunch of smaller images forming the shape of a larger one, etc.

Note: For this project you might want a stronger “base” than just regular paper, especially if you’re looking for the decoupage effect, because of the amount of glue used.

Supplies Needed:

- Poster board, cardboard, thick cardstock, etc
- Tissue paper, construction paper, other decorative papers
- Magazine pictures of Jerusalem, your own pictorial images of Jerusalem (use printouts/ copies NOT original photos!), etc.
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Glue sticks and/or liquid glue (or Mod Podge), bowls, paintbrushes (foam ones work best!)
- Drawing and collage materials (markers, crayons, colored pencils, yarn, beads, glitter, etc.)

Directions:

- 1) If creating a definitive shape, draw your design or Jerusalem scene on your base material (or “stone” from part 1)
- 2) Cut or tear the different papers and images to/around the shapes and sizes you want.
- 3) Glue down the pieces to fill your shape or, if you so choose, at random. Your shapes should overlap each other a little for the best effect.
- 4) For a decoupage effect, pour some liquid glue (or Mod Podge, if you have it) into a bowl and paint it over the top of your papers to seal them. Allow glue to fully dry.
- 5) For a mixed-media collage, feel free to decorate with any drawing materials (markers, crayons, colored pencils, oil pastels, etc.) or add yarn, paint, glitter, beads, or any other materials and textures you want.

Jerusalem Paper Mosaic Collage

Supplies Needed:

- Poster board, cardboard, paper, etc
- Construction paper
- Pencils
- Glue sticks

Directions:

- 1) Tell students that the design needs to be something that can be created with mosaics (which is harder and more time consuming to do than drawing) so encourage them to carefully consider the shapes and design they are going to create. Basic outlines and shapes will work better than tiny details.
- 2) Draw onto your base material (or "stone") your favorite scene of Jerusalem: the Kotel, the Israel Museum, the Montefiore windmill, the Chords (David's Harp) Bridge, the Israeli flag, etc. Show students photos/images on the board/from books etc to encourage creativity and ideas.
- 3) Cut or rip colored construction paper into small pieces. It does not matter what shapes they are. You may use scissors if you want a clean cut line and not a ripped edge. You are the artist, so you can decide.
- 4) Use a glue stick to glue down your colored paper shapes wherever you want them to be, to fill your shape/design. Do not glue your papers down in evenly placed rows. Make sure as well to leave a little room between each piece of paper. Mosaics are supposed to be randomly placed with a bit of white space in between each colored shape.

Jerusalem Tile Mosaic

Note: This is a much slower and more labor-intensive project than the others.

Supplies Needed:

- Wooden board
- Paper and pencils
- Mosaic tile stones
- Tile cutters, if desired
- Grout
- Rubber gloves
- Sponges/rags (for removing excess grout)

Directions:

- 1) Tell students that the design needs to be something that can be created with mosaics (which is harder and more time consuming to do than drawing) so encourage them to carefully consider the shapes and design they are going to create. Basic outlines and shapes will work better than tiny details.

- 2) Draw your favorite scene of Jerusalem: the Kotel, the Israel Museum, the Montefiore windmill, the Chords (David's Harp) Bridge, the Israeli flag, etc. Show students photos/ images on the board/from books etc to encourage creativity and ideas.
- 3) Chose the mosaic tile stones you want to use - you can use various colors, shapes and sizes.
- 4) Chose a wooden board (which you will glue the tile stones onto). Make sure its the right size for your design. Put your paper design on the board first to check this. (Note: If doing Part 1: Colors of Jerusalem Stone, make sure to do the "stone" on the wooden board)
- 5) Give students the option to trace their design onto the wooden board, or to copy the design onto the wooden board. They can also lightly draw their design on the wooden board using a pencil.
- 6) Glue down the appropriate color tiles where you want them to be. Older artists can use tile cutters to cut the tile squares into shapes if they'd like. If allowing tile cutters, instruct students on proper safety.
- 7) Do not place each tile right next to each other: leave a little white space in between each tile for the grout.
- 8) Let glued tiles dry overnight.
- 9) Read instructions on how to apply grout.
- 10) Apply grout (wear rubber gloves to do this) and let sit for appropriate time.
- 11) Once time has lapsed, wipe grout off with appropriate rags and/or sponges. This will be messy, but is well worth it!

Paint Jerusalem

Supplies Needed:

- Poster board, cardboard, paper, etc
- Pencils
- Paint of your choice (both colors and type)
- Appropriate painting materials: bowls for paint distribution, water buckets, paper towels, paintbrushes in various sizes, sponges, etc.

Directions:

- 1) Show students photos/images on the board/from books etc to encourage creativity and ideas. Or select images from [our gallery](#) for reference.
- 2) Draw your favorite scene of Jerusalem onto a canvas, paper, poster board, wooden plaque, your "stone" from Part 1, or anything else that you want!

- 3) Apply your paint: watercolor paint, acrylics, tempera, etc or a mixture of the above. You can also use Sharpie markers, oil pastels, etc for a mixed media effect.

Jerusalem Sand Painting

Sand paintings are simple to make and so much fun for people of all ages! Here are some tips on how to successfully create a beautiful sand painting.

***Artistic Warning**:* sand gets everywhere (do this project outside, if possible)

Supplies Needed:

- Poster board, cardboard, cardstock, etc
- Pencils
- Tablecloths
- Colored sand
- Glue

Directions:

- 1) Line tables with tablecloths (for cleaning up purposes).
- 2) Draw your design and quote for your Jerusalem Cornerstone onto cardstock paper or other material (or "stone" from Part 1).
- 3) Work on small areas at a time because the glue will sink into the paper.
- 4) Spread glue evenly with a big flat brush, then sprinkle sand onto the glued areas. You may use spoons to sprinkle the sand, your hands, old spice bottles with holes in the lids work well too!
- 5) For a bumpy/raised/puffed up look, use a glue bottle to apply the glue. Then sprinkle the sand right on top of the glue.
- 6) Gently tap the excess sand off of the paper before applying more glue, being careful the glue does not drip downwards.
- 7) Sand painting takes patience and time. Do not be surprised if it takes longer than expected and remember 'An Artist always takes their time!' There is no rush. So enjoy the process.

You can purchase colorful bags of sand from most craft stores or from www.swww.com or www.schoolspecialty.com or www.blickartsupplies.com There are generally no differences in colored sand, so buy whatever colors you'd like and have a blast!

PART 3: QUOTES OF JERUSALEM

Activity Introduction: Ask students if they know or have heard any famous quotes about Jerusalem. Discuss briefly how Jerusalem has been a topic of discussion and love for people, philosophers, and poets for thousands of years. Show our [Quotes of Jerusalem](#) slideshow.

Supplies Needed:

- Paper
- Quotes of Jerusalem list (can also use the [Songs of Jerusalem lyrics](#), but have students choose a short lyric rather than the full song)
- Pencils, calligraphy markers, and/or other writing materials
- Paint and paintbrushes

Directions:

- 1) Give out the list of quotes to students/show on the board. Ensure everyone has chosen a quote to use, even one of their own, and explain that they can decorate their cornerstone further by writing/painting the quote on it.
- 2) Once your cornerstone has dried, paint your quote with a paintbrush with thin bristles so you can control it for your lettering and designing of your symbols and artwork.
- 3) If you find that painting letters is too difficult, you may find it easier to use calligraphy markers on paper to write your special quote about Jerusalem.
- 4) Then you can glue down your quote on top of your painted background giving it a 3 dimensional paper collage look - either letter by letter, word by word, or the entire phrase. Just remember to properly cite who stated the quote in small letters - even if it was yourself!
- 5) Add embellishments if you'd like!

DISCUSSION

Here are some discussion questions to engage students with whilst they are creating their cornerstone project (or after they have finished it).

- Jerusalem - The City of Gold: what does that phrase mean to you?
- Do you feel more connected to Jerusalem than to other cities in Israel?
- What are two main aspects of Jerusalem society that you love?
- Why do you believe Jerusalem should be the capital of Israel?
- If you had to spend one day in Jerusalem, what would you do there?

- Why do you think this tiny city is so filled with tension and focused on by the entire world?
- When you have your own house, would you leave a corner unfinished? If so why/why not?
- If the State of Israel was forced to give up Jerusalem, how would you feel?
- Do Yerushalmim (people living in Jerusalem) have certain shared characteristics?

EVALUATION/CONCLUSION

Ask students to show their artwork and give them a few minutes to discuss one thing they learned, what was the quote they liked the most and why, and to say one thing about Jerusalem they learned today.

We'd love to see your cornerstones and share them in our gallery! To submit your personal Cornerstone artwork to the Israel Forever Foundation, simply take a picture and send it to **Stefie@israel forever.org**.

ABOUT THE ISRAEL FOREVER FOUNDATION

The Israel Forever Foundation is an Israel engagement organization that develops and promotes experiential learning resources that celebrate and strengthen the personal connection to Israel as an integral part of Jewish life and identity.

We hope you have enjoyed using this resource. Your feedback matters. Please take a minute to fill out our [evaluation form](#) and help be as effective as possible in providing the resources and tools you need to make the personal Israel connection come to life, whatever the age, wherever you are in the world.