

Yerushalayim

Micrography

This can be used as a classroom lesson, an activity run by a youth group leader or community educator, or by parents. 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 ideally for an hour or can be adapted for a 30 min activity (minimum time) to suit any group or learning environment.

AGE

For children and adults of all ages.

OBJECTIVES

- To learn about micrography and that it is a Jewish tradition
- To create your own micrography picture
- To learn about Jerusalem and our Jewish connection to it
- To understand why Jerusalem is such an important part of our Jewish identity
- To learn about a type of Jewish art (micrography)

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Thick, acid free paper of any kind a canvas of any size
- [Alef Bet stencils](#) (optional)
- Pencil
- Sketch paper
- [Ultra fine point paint pen](#) (color of your choice) or an ultra fine point Sharpie marker
- Paint (any type and color of your choice)
- Disposable plate for paint distribution
- Scissors
- Jerusalem-related text of your choice
- Sponges for sponge painting

ACTIVITY INTRODUCTION/GETTING STARTED

Show students the micrography picture. Ask them if they know what micrography is, explain what it is. Read all about micrography as an innovation of Israel's ancient scribes. Read all about micrography as an innovation of Israel's ancient scribes.

https://israelforever.org/interact/blog/words_as_art_creative_legacy_of_the_scribes/

<https://blog.nli.org.il/en/micrography/>

<https://www.bl.uk/hebrew-manuscripts/articles/micrography-a-jewish-art>

Ask students if they have seen this before. Show some examples of micrography (see list below) and say we are going to make our own one of the word Jerusalem in English or Hebrew. Explain that within these words (show with a large size example, so its clear to see the words within the words) we are going to put in words and discuss what those words could be. Then model how to do the activity.

View our [gallery](#) of featured pieces of Jerusalem-inspired micrography.

ACTIVITY

1. Place your canvas/final paper horizontally and sponge paint the background with whatever color(s) you choose. The sample has one solid colored background, but you can have as many colors as you'd like.

2. While your sponge painting dries, select the Jerusalem-related text you want to use.

For example:

http://israelforever.org/interact/multimedia/yerushalayim_shel_zahav/

https://israelforever.org/interact/blog/poems_jerusalem_yehuda_amichai/

https://israelforever.org/interact/blog/jerusalem_heart_of_our_heart_soul_of_our_soul/

Pick something that speaks to your heart, that you will always remember, that will evoke your connection to our holy land. You could also simply write your own thoughts and feelings about Yerushalayim.

3. Begin writing your Hebrew letters spelling out Yerushalayim ירושלים across your SKETCH paper.
 - You may draw your letters freehand or use stencils as a guide if you'd like.
 - If you choose to use a stencil - use your scissors to cut out each individual letter which will become your own handmade stencil to use on top your sponge painting.
4. Lay your letters in place across the now-dry sponge painted paper/canvas. Sketch lightly the outline of the letters spelling out Yerushalayim/Jerusalem.
5. Now it is time to focus on the text you would like to write out. Begin filling in your text in the language of your choice, INSIDE the lines of each letter.

**Note that the sample image above has the 70 different names of Israel written in Hebrew. Some are legible and in the proper direction (Hebrew reads right to left, as opposed to English that reads left to right). Some letters are not in the proper direction. You are the artist and have the freedom to choose to write in Hebrew (block or script), English, or any language of your choice. Be as creative as you want!*

6. Sign and date your work.
7. Then email an image of your creation to Stefie@IsraelForever.org so we can proudly share your art with our global community of Virtual Citizens of Israel.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

If time, students can create another micrography related to Jerusalem or Israel, like zion, city of gold etc.

DISCUSSION

Here are some discussion questions to engage students with whilst they are creating their micrography picture (and 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 the 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?
- If the State of Israel had 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 say one thing about micrography they learned today, and to explain why they chose the small text they did in their picture, what's the importance of it/what does it mean to them etc.

Your feedback matters as we aim to provide the best resources possible for your experiential and reflective learning experience. Please let us know if you use our program, and consider taking a minute to fill out our [evaluation form](#). And please [contact us](#) for more information or for unique resources for your learning audience.



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. [israelforever.org](#)