

# 70 NAMES OF JERUSALEM

## Art Activity

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 for an hour or can be adapted for two 30 minute activities (minimum time) to suit any group or learning environment.

### AGE

For children and adults of all ages.

### OBJECTIVES

- To learn about the 70 names of Jerusalem
- To know that Jerusalem has 70 names
- To learn about Jerusalem and our Jewish connection to it
- To understand why Jerusalem is such an important part of our Jewish identity

### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Plain paper
- Watercolor paper - Watercolor paper is a great thing to have on hand. It comes in a variety of textures - [Hot Press Watercolor paper](#) has a smooth, hard surface while [Cold Press Watercolor paper](#) has semi-bumpy or rough texture. Both can be used to create different artistic styles in your artwork.
- Pencils, pens, ultra fine permanent markers
- Ruler (optional)
- [Images of Jerusalem](#)
- [List of 70 Names of Jerusalem](#) printed

## ACTIVITY INTRODUCTION/GETTING STARTED

According to Jewish tradition, there are 70 names to the holy city of Jerusalem. Discuss with students what they know about Jerusalem. Write words that come to mind when you think of Jerusalem. Ask them if they know of any other names. Show the pdf document on the board/print off and give a copy to each student/each group/each pair of students.

This document is a list of the [70 names](#). Give students time to read through the list and give them a few minutes to choose a name they like and will use to create their piece of art.

## ACTIVITY

1. Pick an image connected to Jerusalem (from our [Jerusalem Image Gallery](#)) that you want to try and draw. You can draw from your memory, imagination, or a photographic image. It can be a landscape, David's Harp bridge, a building you love, a doorway in Nachlaot or Yemin Moshe, a path or archway in the Old City, even a [collage of different sites](#) in our capital city.
2. On a plain piece of paper, practice your outline in pencil. Once you have finalized something you like and are pleased with the layout, redraw your design LIGHTLY onto your watercolor paper. Be sure to sketch lightly onto your watercolor paper so as to minimize erasing your lines. Be cautious not to erase too hard or too much so you do not shred or tear your paper.
3. Every letter of the [Hebrew alphabet has a wonderful power!](#) Read the list of 70 names of Jerusalem. If you'd like, practice writing your Hebrew letters on your sketched drawing or on a blank plain piece of paper.
4. Fill in the outlined Jerusalem scene with the names of Jerusalem using different colored pencils/markers.
  - You can fill the inside of the outlines, or the [sky behind it](#).
  - You can write different names in different sizes, or make them all uniform.

*Be creative, and be inspired as you write out each name of our holy city!*

5. Once all of your letters are pencilled in, be sure to double check that everything is spelled correctly. Then you may begin tracing over your pencilled letters with your permanent ultra fine point marker. You are free to use any color you want; as you are the artist!
6. Now it's time to turn your drawing into a beautiful [Jerusalem watercolor painting](#). Using watercolors, paint directly over the permanent ink - add the emotion of the city through the colors you choose.

Share your artwork with our global community of [Virtual Citizens of Israel](#) and help inspire other creative artists. Send photographs of your artwork to [Stefie@israelforever.org](mailto:Stefie@israelforever.org)

## DISCUSSION

- 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?
- Why is Jerusalem so central to Judaism and Jewish identity?
- Why is Jerusalem mentioned at every Jewish wedding, in the siddur etc?

## CONCLUSION & EVALUATION

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

**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. [israel forever.org](http://israel forever.org)