

ERETZ YISRAEL: THE LAND OF ISRAEL

A Letter to Families

Dear Families,

We are excited to share that our class will be exploring a special video lesson titled "*What is the Land of Israel?*" — Episode 2 of an educational series featuring Noa Tishby, the acclaimed Israeli actress, author, and advocate. Ms. Tishby has spoken before the United Nations and is the author of *Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth*. Her warm, engaging, and deeply personal approach brings Jewish history to life in a way that is both accessible and meaningful for young people.

In this lesson, students will explore the ancient and ongoing connection between the Jewish people and the Land of Israel. Beginning with the covenant between God and Abraham, the lesson traces the journey through the Exodus, the kingdoms of David and Solomon, the destruction of the First and Second Temples, 2,000 years of diaspora, and the reestablishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

Students will also learn how the Land of Israel holds significance not only for Jews, but for Christians and Muslims as well — and they will practice important academic skills including historical analysis, evidence-based writing, vocabulary development, and collaborative discussion.

This lesson is aligned with California History-Social Science Standards and Common Core ELA Standards for grades 9–12. It is designed to be culturally inclusive and historically rigorous, and it reflects our commitment to giving our students a proud, informed foundation in Jewish history and identity.

The lesson includes a video viewing, a map activity, group discussion, and an individual written response. Students will bring home their completed student handout and vocabulary worksheet, which are excellent starting points for family conversation.

We invite you to extend the learning at home:

- Ask your student: "What was one thing in the video that surprised you?"
- Share your own family's story of connection to Israel — or to a homeland your family has longed for.
- Watch the video together — ask us for the link!
- Explore Noa Tishby's book at your local library or bookstore.

If you have any questions about this lesson or our curriculum, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are grateful for your partnership in your children's education.

B'vracha (With blessings),

Your Child's Teacher