

ERETZ YISRAEL: THE LAND OF ISRAEL

A Letter to Families

Dear Families,

We are delighted to share that our class will be participating in an exciting video lesson titled "*What is the Land of Israel?*" — Episode 2 of an educational series featuring Noa Tishby. Ms. Tishby is an acclaimed Israeli actress, bestselling author of *Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth*, and an advocate who has addressed the United Nations. Her warm, personal, and engaging storytelling style makes this complex history both accessible and memorable for middle school students.

In this lesson, your child will explore the ancient and enduring connection between the Jewish people and the Land of Israel. The video takes students on a journey from the covenant between God and Abraham through the Exodus, the kingdoms of King David and King Solomon, the destruction of the First and Second Temples, 2,000 years of Jewish diaspora, and the reestablishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

Students will also discover that the Land of Israel holds deep significance for Christians and Muslims as well — and they will practice essential academic skills including careful listening, map reading, vocabulary development, collaborative discussion, and evidence-based writing.

This lesson aligns with California History-Social Science Standards for grades 6–8 and Common Core ELA Standards. It is designed to be historically accurate, age-appropriate, and inclusive of the diverse backgrounds our students bring to the classroom.

Activities include: a brief writing warm-up, video viewing with a note-taking guide, a map labeling activity, small-group discussion, and an individual written exit ticket. Students will bring home their completed student handout and vocabulary worksheet.

Extend the learning at home — try one of these conversation starters:

- "What was the most interesting thing you learned today about the Land of Israel?"
- "Noa Tishby says she comes from Israel. Did our family come from somewhere else? What do we still remember about that place?"
- "The video talks about people saying 'Next Year in Jerusalem' for 2,000 years. Is there a place our family has longed to return to?"
- Watch the episode together — ask your child to be the teacher and explain what they saw.

We are grateful for your continued partnership in your child's education. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

B'vracha (With blessings),

Your Child's Teacher