

Cambian Wisbech School

Culture of Israel

Date 23.9.20

Outcomes:

To learn and share appreciation for other cultures including their:

- Language
- History



- Geography
- Cuisine
- Social justice
- Art
- Religious beliefs





Today, all the children's learning was based around the culture of Judaism and Israel. They learnt all about the language, history, art and religion of the country, as well as experiencing some of the foods that are eaten in the region. They also had a chance to discuss the social justice involved right from the times of the enslavement of the Hebrew race by the Pharaoh of Egypt right through to modern day Israel and the conflict with Palestine.

Social justice – The story of Moses and the Palestine Mandate.

The children were told the story of Moses to enable them to understand how the original state of Israel was created. The issue of slavery was discussed and the children discussed how this was unjust. We also discussed the importance of having a personal, private space – why a home is important to people.

After this the children were shown how Israel had 'changed hands' many times – first, the Romans and then the Islamic takeover and the moment the land became known as Palestine in about the year 700 CE.

The final part of the lesson was to explain what happened to Palestine after the UN mandate of 1947 and how it was essentially handed back to Israel and the Jewish people after the horrors of the Holocaust. Children were shown maps to show how much of the land was slowly given over to Israel right up to the year 2020. They were then posed questions about whether this was socially just, for example, "Could you imagine someone telling you that your house would be given to someone else and you would only be allowed to keep and use a small room?" The children engaged well and came up with some excellent answers.





Religion - Rosh Hamah

During the RE session, children learnt about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We learnt about how Jewish people celebrate and why this is an important time of year for them. This festival is all about the New Year, asking for forgiveness for any wrong doings and moving on in hope of a good year ahead. The children thought about how they could learn from the celebration and what they could do in their own lives. Then were given the opportunity to try apple dipped in honey which is a symbol of a sweet year ahead. There was lots of fantastic learning going on including looking at a range of religious artefacts.



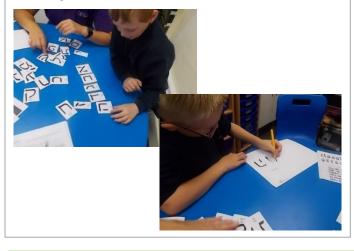




Language - Hebrew



During the language session, pupils looked at the language of Hebrew (the most widely used language in Israel). They looked at the Hebrew alphabet (the Aleph bet) and compared this to our English alphabet. Pupils tried writing different letters of the alphabet and then their name. This proved very tricky as the Hebrew 'Aleph bet' has no vowels! To finish off, pupils learned a few common Hebrew phases such as 'shalom' meaning peace and 'Boker Tov' meaning good morning.



Israeli Art

In art we looked at Ya'akov Agam, the Israeli sculptor. He created sensory pieces, specialising in optical and kinetic art. Agam created the Agamograph – art which shows how to create and appear to demonstrate different dimensions in artwork. During our lesson we recreated this, creating a piece of 3d artwork that captured a different picture depending on which way you looked at it.











History of Israel

The lesson comprised of watching short video of things for kids to do in Israel – provoking a discussion on holiday destination. The children then had a discussion in groups where students had to sort facts about Israel into true or false. This caused lots of discussion and was very successful, all the children joined in. They then made a flip book of geographical features of Israel – the Dead Sea very popular discussion point. The learning objectives were: Can they describe the key features of a place, using words like, beach, coast forest, hill, mountain, ocean, valley? Can they describe a place outside Europe using geographical words?







The food of Israel.

During cooking lessons the children helped to prepare the food (a feast, in fact). They made Falafel, ground chickpeas mixed with onions and spices formed into balls and fried. A tabuleh (a salad of bulgar wheat and chopped vegetables), hummus (chickpea paste), grilled chicken with cumin, chilli, garlic, onion, and black pepper. Baklava is a popular dessert of Arabic origin and consists of flaky dough layered with honey and nuts and it was a fantastic way to finish off the day.







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Geography

- Cuisine

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Religious beliefs

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Religion

Students studied the religion of Judaism and designed a poster of what they learnt. They looked at where the religion began, all the different key terms, the place of worship - the Synagogue and what Kosher means. The students had a go at drawing the two most important symbols of Judaim the Star of David and the Menorah. Then the students look at the Jewish holy book – the Torah and why its so important to them and where it was kept.

Language

During the language session, pupils looked at the language of Hebrew and learnt basic phrases in hebrew. Students studied the Hebrew alphabet and where this originated from and the ressurection of this in the 1900's.





History of Israel

Students researched the timeline of events in Jewish history and the persecution of Jewish people. During lessons students researched the background of Hitler and went through powerpoints on what makes a person a Jew. At the end of the lesson students completed a crossword puzzle that included facts on the history of Jews.



Geography

In geography lessons on our cultural day Students learnt about the border of Israel and how this has changed since the war. After watching videos on youtube and looking through powerpoints on the geography of Israel students traced he border on a piece of paper and completed a timetable of events

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The food of Israel

During this week students have been working with Sam in food tech lessons. In preparation for our Israel cultural day students mae falafel, humous and pitta bread, salad and baklava, all of which are traditional Israeli foods. On the serving table Sam created information sheets on each food. At lunch time both students and teaching staff sat together to enjoy this lovely food made by Sam (3)



