

Be'er Sheva: THEN

Please learn with your parent about the background of this city and turn the page for a fun activity based on what you just learned!



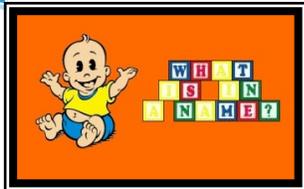
The city of Be'er Sheva was home to all of our Avot and Imahot. Avraham and Sarah lived there after the birth of Yitzchak. Avraham returns there after Akeidat Yitzchak. Later, Yitzchak goes there and Hashem speaks to him. Before running away to Lavan's house, Yaakov stops in Be'er Sheva, and later stops there to bring sacrifices to Hashem. Be'er Sheva was a city with a lot of spirituality. This is what attracted the Avot and Imahot to it, and why Hashem speaks with them there.



The Wells in the Desert

Be'er Sheva is in the middle of a large desert in the south of Israel. Therefore, it was very important to find wells if fresh water for you and your animals to drink. Avraham and Sarah had a lot of people in their household, and many sheep and cattle that they had to take care of. When they settled in Be'er Sheva they began digging for wells, but every time they uncovered a well the servants of Avimelech, the local king, came and stole it from them. After some time Avimelech recognized that Hashem was guiding and protecting Avraham and Sarah in everything that they did so he decided to make a peace treaty with them. As part of the treaty Avraham gives seven goats to Avimelech, and Avimelech promises to not let anyone take this well away from Avraham. They named the place Be'er Sheva after the well (be'er) where they made a promise (shvuah) to each other.

Name That Name:



The Torah tells us that the names of people and places have important meanings. What are the meanings of the following names?

באר שבע
Be'er Sheva

כח. וַיִּצַב אַבְרָהָם אֶת שִׁבְעַת כְּבָשֹׁת הַצֹּאן לְבִדְהוֹן:
כט. וַיֹּאמֶר אַבִּימֶלֶךְ אֶל אַבְרָהָם מַה הֵנָּה שִׁבְעַת כְּבָשֹׁת הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר הִצַּבְתָּ לְבִדְהוֹן:
ל. וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי אֶת שִׁבְעַת כְּבָשֹׁת תִּקַּח מִיָּדִי בְּעֵבֹר תִּהְיֶה לִּי לְעֵדָה כִּי חָפְרְתִי אֶת הַבְּאֵר הַזֹּאת:
לא. עַל כֵּן קָרָא לְמָקוֹם הַהוּא בְּאֵר שִׁבְעַת כִּי שָׁם נִשְׁבָּעוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם:

28. And Abraham placed seven ewe lambs by themselves.
29. And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What are these seven ewe lambs, which you have placed by themselves?"
30. And he said, "For these seven ewe lambs you shall take from my hand, in order that it be to me for a witness that I dug this well."
31. Therefore, he named that place Beer sheba, for there they both swore.

Answers:

אדם
Adam

ז. וַיִּיצֶר ה' אֱלֹהִים אֶת הָאָדָם עֹפָר מִן הָאֲדָמָה וַיִּפַּח בְּאַפָּיו נְשֹׁמַת חַיִּים וַיְהִי הָאָדָם לְנֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה:

7. And the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and He breathed into his nostrils the soul of life, and man became a living soul.

בבל
Bavel

ט. עַל כֵּן קָרָא שְׁמָהּ בְּבֶל כִּי שָׁם בָּלַל ה' שִׁפְתַי כָּל הָאֲרָץ וַיִּמְשַׁם הַפִּיזָם ה' עַל פְּנֵי כָל הָאֲרָץ:

9. Therefore, He named it Babel, for there the Lord confused the language of the entire earth, and from there the Lord scattered them upon the face of the entire earth.

יעקב
Yaakov

כו. וַאֲחֵרִי כֹן יָצָא אָחִיו וַיִּגְדוּ אַחְזוֹת בְּעֵקֶב עֵשָׂו וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ יַעֲקֹב וַיִּצְחָק בֶּן שָׁשִׁים שָׁנָה בְּלִדְתוֹ אֹתָם:

26. And afterwards, his brother emerged, and his hand was grasping Esau's heel, and he named him Jacob. Now Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them.

בית אל
Beit El

טז. וַיִּיקָץ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁנָתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲכֹן יֵשׁ ה' בְּמָקוֹם הַזֶּה וְאֲנֹכִי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי: ... יט. וַיִּקְרָא אֶת שֵׁם הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא בֵּית אֱלֹהִים:

16. And Jacob awakened from his sleep, and he said, "Indeed, the Lord is in this place, and I did not know [it]." ...19. And he named the place Beth El

יהודה
Yehudah

לה. וַתֵּהָר עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַתֹּאמֶר הַפַּעַם אוֹדָה אֶת ה' עַל כֵּן קָרָאָה שְׁמוֹ יְהוּדָה וַתַּעֲמֹד מִלְּדוֹת:

35. And she conceived again and bore a son, and she said, "This time, I will thank the Lord! Therefore, she named him Judah, and [then] she stopped bearing.

משה
Moshe

י. וַיִּגְדַּל הַיֶּלֶד וַתִּבְאֵהוּ לְבַת פְּרָעֹה וַיְהִי לָהּ לְבֵן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ מֹשֶׁה וַתֹּאמֶר כִּי מִן הַמַּיִם מִשִּׁיתָהוּ:

10. The child grew up, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became like her son. She named him Moses, and she said, "For I drew him from the water."

What is your name?

Are you named after someone?

What does your name mean?

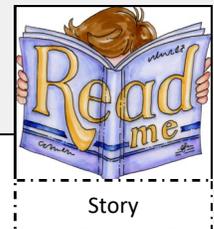


Be'er Sheva: NOW



Background

When Israel became a state in 1948, Be'er Sheva was under Egyptian rule, with very few Jewish families living there. During the War of Independence, the Israeli Defense Force engaged in extensive battles near Be'er Sheva, and eventually broke through the borders into the city. Prime Minister David Ben Gurion sent a message to the troops saying, "Through your blood you are renewing our connection with Avraham Avinu." After the war, the Jewish population in Be'er Sheva significantly grew. This growth continued in 1990's, with Be'er Sheva becoming the new home to many of the new immigrants from the former Soviet Union.



The Rocket which did not Explode

There was an old building in Be'er Sheva that was temporarily being used as a shul. Every morning, tens of people would gather there to daven. One morning, a terrorist group in Gaza fired a rocket that headed directly for this building. Though davening had already ended and many of the people had left, there were a number of people still left in the building, and a direct hit from the rocket should have been devastating. However, an incredible miracle occurred. Though the rocket hit the building directly, it did not explode. There was a loud crash as the rocket hit, and dust flew everywhere. But, Baruch Hashem, despite the direct hit, no one was injured.

Different cities and countries create a symbol which represents who they are and what they represent, and also connects to their history.
Look at the symbol for Be'er Sheva and then learn about

Tree: Avraham planted a tree in Be'er Sheva and gave his guests food while they sat under it.



Symbol of the city of Be'er Sheva

12 pillars: What do you think the 12 pillars represent?

Stone wall: This is because Yerushalayim is surrounded by walls.

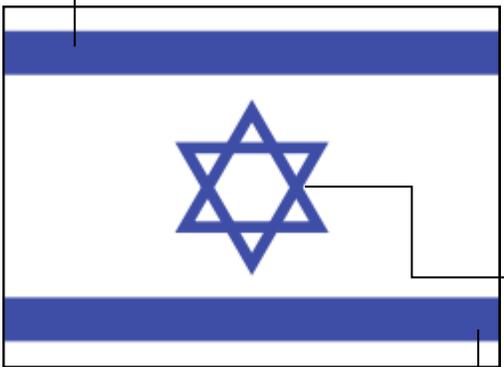
Stripes: Can you think of anything that people wear that is white and has stripes on it?

Olive branches: Do you know what olive branches represent?



Symbol of the city of Yerushalayim

Lion: The lion is the symbol of which tribe?
Dovid Ha'melech is from that tribe and he made Yerushalayim the capital city.



Flag of the State of Israel

Magen Dovid: How many points are there on this star?
The 6 points remind us that Hashem controls the entire world, in all 6 directions (north, south, east, west, up, and down).

Sword: What does the sword represent on the army symbol?

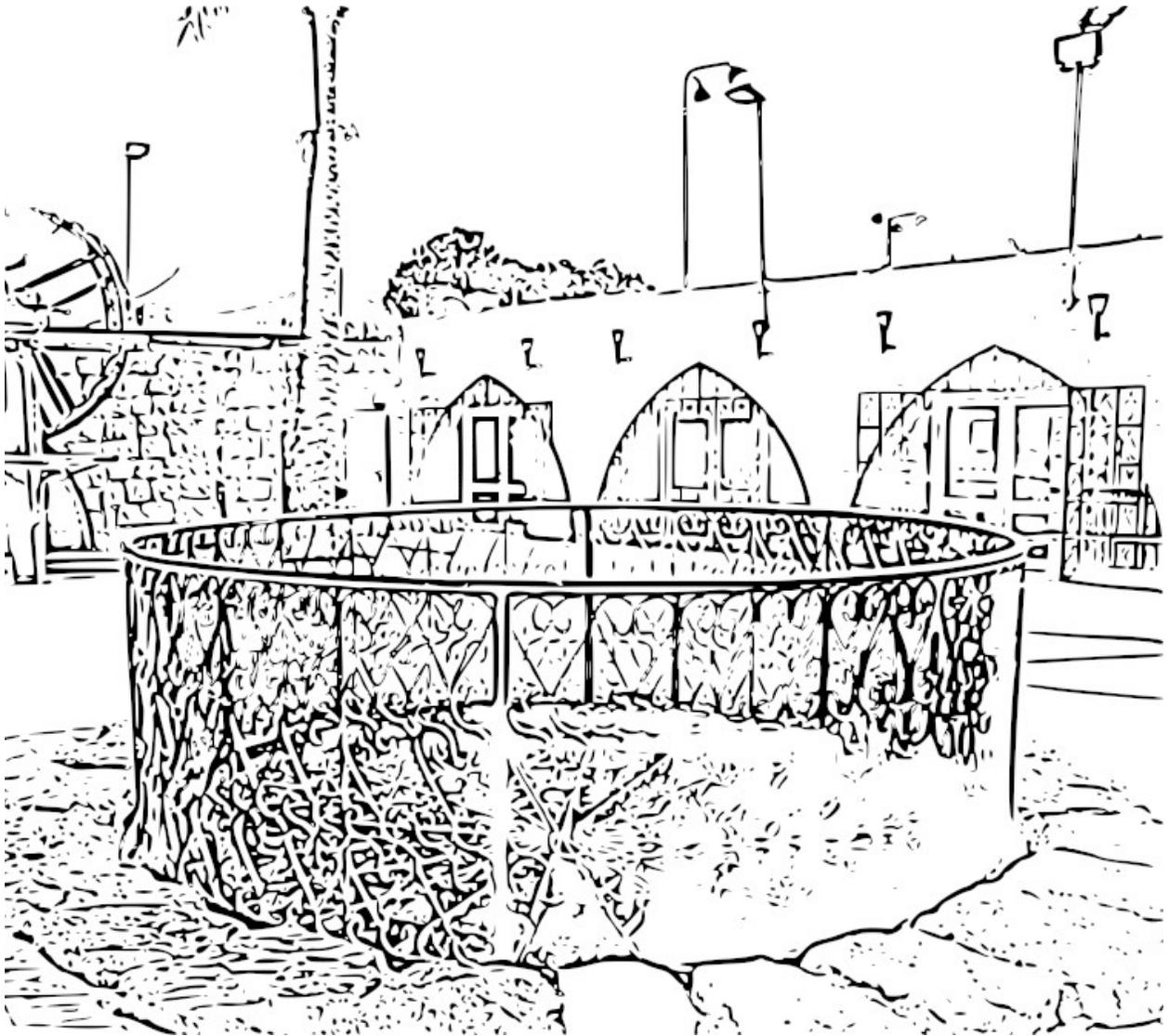
Olive branch: Now that we know what an olive branch means, why does the army have an olive branch?



Symbol of the Israeli Army (Tzahal)

Blue: The colors of the flag are blue and white, just like the clothes of the kohen gadol in the Beit Ha'mikdash.

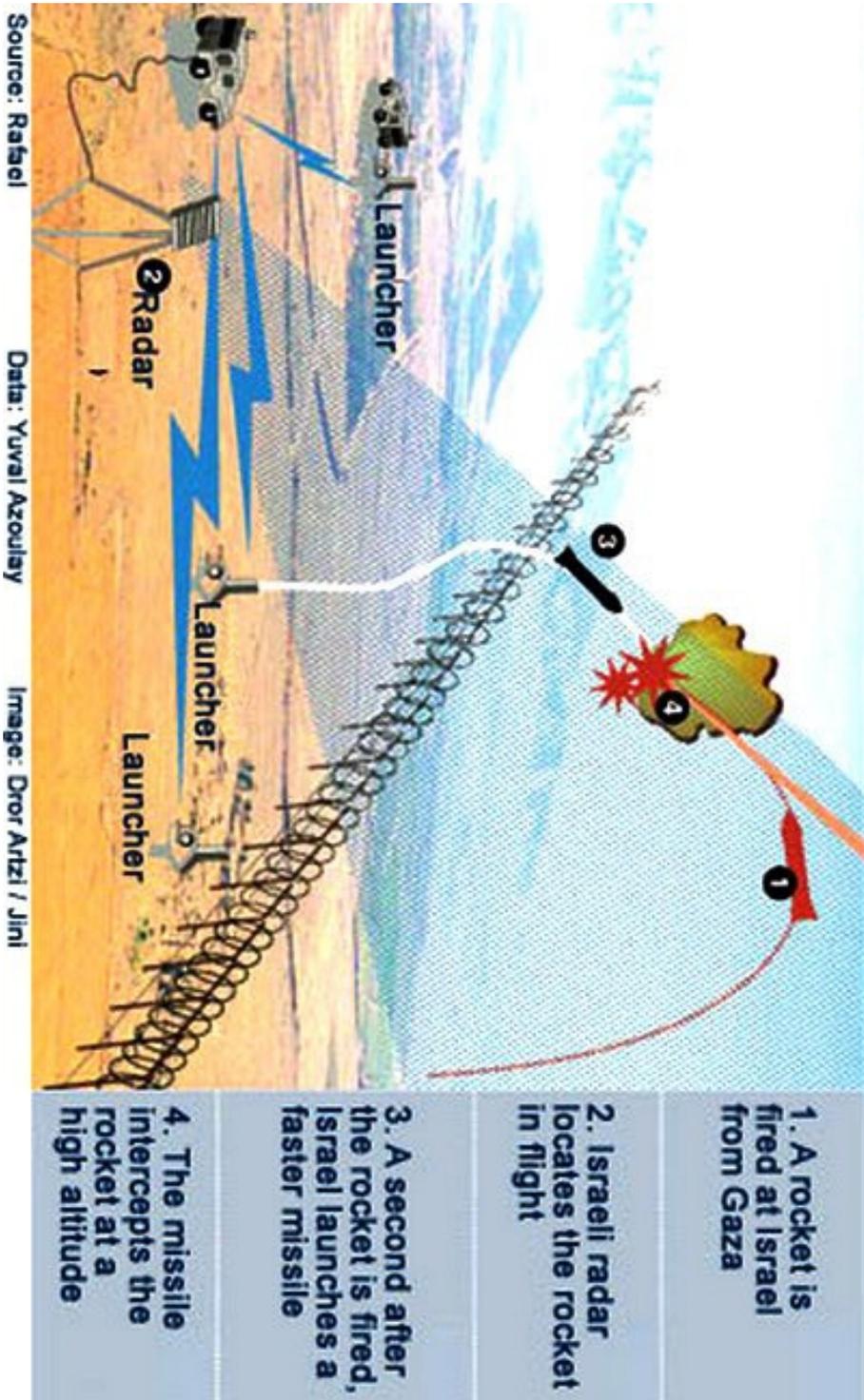
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The Well in Be'er Sheva

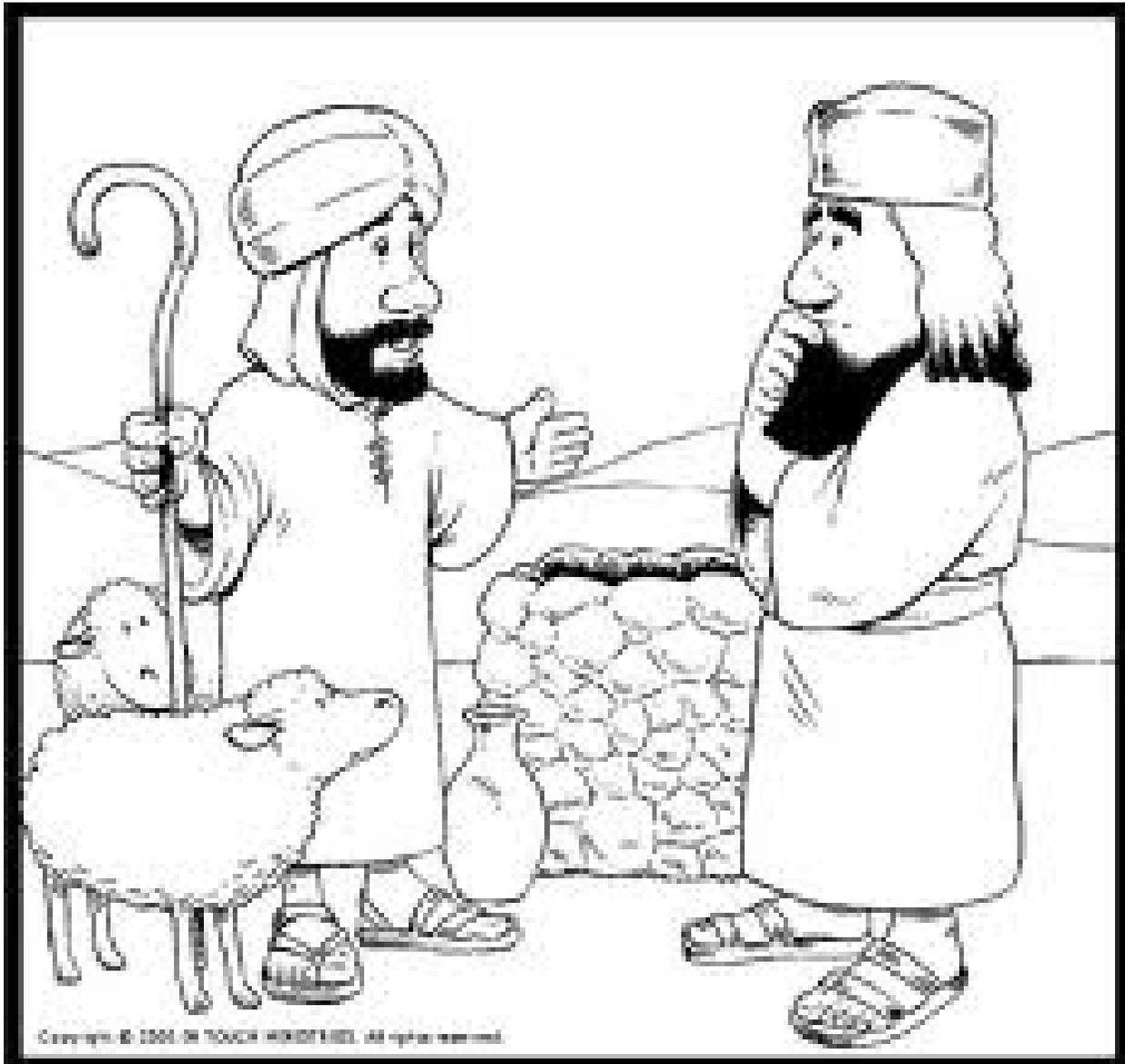
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How 'Iron Dome' works



The Iron Dome is a defensive missile system, protecting Israel

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**Avraham and Avimelech making a treaty
at the well in Be'er Sheva**