

Israel: Shiran and Her Mandolin

I Love Music Series

Subject Areas: Social Studies, World Geography and Cultures, Multicultural Studies, Music

Synopsis: Shiran lives in Rosh HaAyin, in Israel. She plays the mandolin and would love to join the city orchestra, like her elder sister.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to compare and contrast their culture, family and activities with Shiran's culture, family and activities.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of cultures of our planet.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to locate Israel on a map or globe.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to recognize the cultural significance of the mandolin in Shiran's town.

Vocabulary:

Mandolin, Israel, Rosh HaAyin, honor, fortress, inspiration, tremolo (trembling), Italian, falafel, national, applaud, rehearsal, bass, rhythm, concentrate, concert, ancient, Yemenite, Middle Eastern music

Pre-Viewing Activities:

- 1) Locate Israel on a map or globe. Ask students on which continent Israel is located. Point out Rosh HaAyin, Jerusalem, the Negev Desert, the Mediterranean Sea, the Dead Sea, and Egypt on the map. Make sure viewers know where Israel is in relation to the rest of the world, including the United States and North America.
- 2) Discuss general characteristics of Israel such as climate, geographical features, the people, customs, etc.
- 3) Ask students to identify favorite hobbies or activities. In what are they interested? Do they take lessons for their activities? Is anyone interested in music?

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Describe Shiran's family. Describe her home. Compare the town where Shiran lives to your own town. How is it similar or different? How is her family or home like or unlike yours?
- 2) What does Shiran want to do? Does she achieve this? How does she work toward her goal? What is a mandolin? How can you tell that it is special to Shiran and to her town?
- 3) Compare and contrast Shiran's activities to your own. How are they similar or different? Why does Shiran take lessons? Do your activities involve lessons of some kind? In what activities are you interested? Have you ever performed in front of a large audience? Were you nervous like Shiran?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Have students research the history and origination of the mandolin. Compare the mandolin to the guitar. Contact a music teacher or school to locate a mandolin player, and invite him to come to the class.
- 2) Have students prepare a geographic profile of Israel noting its size, location, climate, natural resources and outstanding cultural traits. Have the students describe Israel's history, people, language, principal industries and major tourist attractions.

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