



Teacher's Guide

The Ancient Hebrews **Time Compass**

Grade Levels:

4-8

Subject Areas:

Social Studies

Synopsis:

Innovative animation and a tongue-in-cheek approach to ancient history provide a sound introduction to Jewish history, from Abraham's people journeying to the Promised Land up to the Final Diaspora. Jewish civilization is heralded as being the only ancient civilization to have survived to the present day. Students learn of Joseph's exile in Egypt, Moses and the Ten Commandments, the 40 years of wandering in the desert, and the establishment of Judea and Israel. They also learn the significance of the Torah, the Arc of the Covenant, the destruction of Solomon's temple, and the memory of the Holy Land kept alive by Jewish rituals. Segments on codes of conduct and the disappearance of the Maya reinforce the concept of social codes that ensure stability throughout the civilized world.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Explain why Jewish culture has survived since the days of the first Patriarch.
- Recall key events in the history of the Ancient Hebrews.
- Explain what is meant by "code of conduct" and Diaspora.
- Understand the importance of the Ten Commandments, the Arc of the Covenant, the Temple, and the Torah.

Vocabulary:

civilization, Diaspora, Arc of the Covenant, Torah, code of conduct, Sephardim, rituals, extinct cities

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

What is another name for Hebrew?

Who were the ancient Hebrews? Where did they establish themselves as a unique civilization?

Where do Jewish people live today?

What are the Ten Commandments? Why are they so important to many people today?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Before he led his people into Canaan, what pact did Abraham make with God? What other patriarch gave a message from God to the ancient Hebrews? Where were the tablets containing the Ten Commandments kept for safety?

What patriarch built a temple to house the Arc of the Covenant and to provide a place of worship for the ancient Hebrews? What historical events had made it possible for him to build this temple and to know that the Arc of the Covenant would be safe there?

What subsequent historical events resulted in the temple being destroyed, rebuilt and destroyed again?

How did the Jewish people become scattered all over the world? How did they keep their identity as a nation intact?

Further Activities:

Find other stories of the lives of the Patriarchs and the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

Learn how Moses survived being killed as an infant and grew to be a powerful leader of his people.

Abraham is a key figure in Jewish history and in Arab history, or the history of Islam. Discover why he is a revered figure to both Jews and Arabs.

Write a brief explanation of why you think the Ten Commandments have been respected as a code of conduct for so many people.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

Arc of the Hebrew Covenant
The Dead Sea Scrolls

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