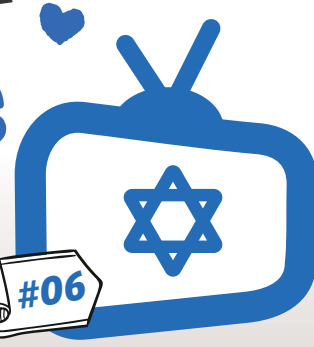


ISRAEL news for kids

The Magazine

#06



Aliyah

You can go up a ladder.

You can go up stairs.

*And if you are really tired
you can go up in an elevator.*

*But how do you go up
from one country to another?*

*All over the world,
people often go to live in other countries.
In English, this is usually called "moving."*

**So why is it that when
Jews go to live in Eretz Yisrael
it's called Aliyah,
which means "going up"?**

The Torah, in the Book of Genesis, tells us of the sons of Jacob, who left Egypt to bury their father in Israel. They are called "olim," those who go up. (Today, "olim" is the word for "immigrants," people who come from another country to live in Israel.)

Ever since the Jewish people have been in exile (living outside the Land of Israel), the concept of "Aliyah" has been used when talking of Jews returning to the Land of their ancestors. We "go up" to a place which is 'higher' than other places.



***No, Israel is not physically
higher than other countries, but
in terms of its holiness, it is on a
higher level than other places.***

***That's why we "go up" or
"make aliyah" to a place that
is spiritually higher than
anywhere else in the world.***

***For over 2,000 years, Jews have
always dreamed of returning to
Eretz Yisrael.***

At first, people made Aliyah for religious reasons. For example, groups of Hassidim who wanted to live in the Holy Land.

Later though, and in more recent times, Jews began “going up” to Israel for other reasons – Zionism, a wish to populate the Land, etc.

In the years before the establishment of the State of Israel, there were five major waves of aliyah, unsurprisingly called the First Aliyah, the Second Aliyah, the Third Aliyah, the Fourth Aliyah and the Fifth Aliyah!

222 *Just before 1948, The British ruled in Israel, Jews were not allowed to make aliyah.*

Nevertheless, there were Jews who did not give up.

They made Aliyah secretly, in boats, taking a big risk, because of the awful conditions and the danger of British soldiers sending them away or putting them in jail.

These olim were called “Ma’apilim,” which also means “going up” in Hebrew.



IMG WIKIPEDIA : The Ma’apilim boat Susanna -1947

After the establishment of the State of Israel, Jews continued to make aliyah from all over the globe. The Israeli Government even organized a number of daring operations to bring in Jews from enemy countries.

They gave these operations some very special names:

“On Eagle’s Wings” brought Jews to Israel from Yemen in 1950. The phrase is taken from the verse in Exodus, “I will carry you on eagle’s wings and I will bring you to Me.”



IMG GPO : Immigrants from Yemen, ELDAN DAVID

Another operation in the 1950s, to bring Jews from Iraq to Israel, was called “The Aliyah of Ezra and Nechemia.” Ezra and Nechemia were two biblical leaders who led the Jews back to Eretz Yisrael from Babylon (modern-day Iraq).



IMG WIKIPEDIA NILI: Jewish immigrants from Iraq - Benno Rothenberg - Benno Rothenberg /Meitar Collection / National Library of Israel The Pritzker Family National Photography Collection / CC BY 4.0

The last such operation was in 2022, during the war in the Ukraine, which received the name “Coming Home.” Hundreds of Jews from the Ukraine, Russia and Belarus “went up” to Israel.

If you had to give a special name to such a mission – bringing Jews to Israel from another country, what name would you suggest?

Unique Story

Gathering the Jews from All Over the World, in Uniform



IMG GPO : Immigrant children at the Absorption Center_ALPERT NATHAN_1990

A painting in one color could be beautiful, but I'm sure you would agree that when you paint a picture in many colors, it becomes much more interesting and attractive.

Each color is unique and when mixed with other colors, you can create more and more colors and shades.

Indeed, there are endless possibilities of beauty.

The same is true for the Jewish people returning to the Land of Israel.

The Jewish people was spread out all over the world, and is now gradually coming back to one little country, the Land of its ancestors.

This is called "Kibbutz Galuyot" in Hebrew. "Kibbutz" means a gathering and "Galuyot" refers to all countries other than Israel.

You can see it with your own eyes anywhere you go in Israel.

Immigrants from all parts of the world can be found in education, in the government, in business, in the streets, the yards and in the line at the supermarket.



IMG GPO : New Immigrants landing in Israel -ISRAELI TSVIKA



Perhaps this in-gathering of Jews is most meaningful in the Israeli Army, the IDF (Israel Defense Forces).

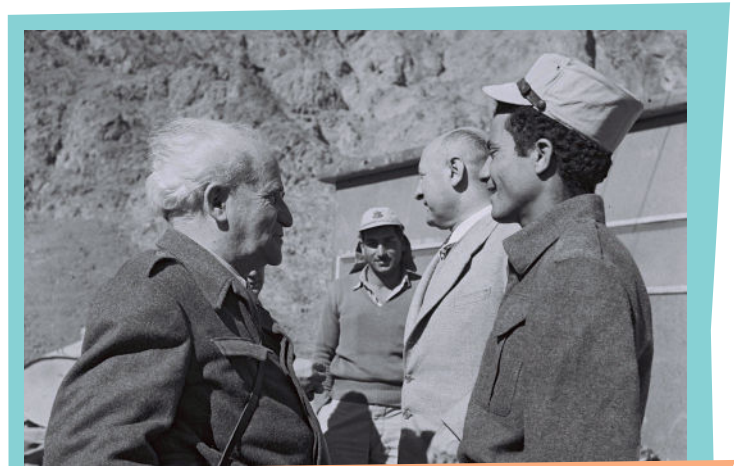
Already in 1949, in Israel's first war, many olim from Europe and North Africa joined the fighting forces.

This too had a name – “Giyus Chutz LaAretz” – Recruitment from Outside Israel.

After the war, the new army announced a special day known as “The Day of the Ingathering of the Exiles,” on which Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, gave a moving speech.

Here is part of what he said:

“In the IDF, the great historical vision is coming true. It kept the Hebrew people outside Israel alive and because of it we are fighting this war, and it is why the State of Israel was established – the vision of Kibbutz Galuyot. We have a mini-Kibbutz Galuyot in the IDF, with native Israelis fighting alongside Jews from outside of Israel, who have written a wonderful new chapter in the long and ancient history of our people. A chapter of Jewish bravery on the battlefield... which will perhaps stand shoulder to shoulder with the chapters of Jewish bravery from the times of Joshua bin Nun, the Kings of Judah and the Hasmoneans.”

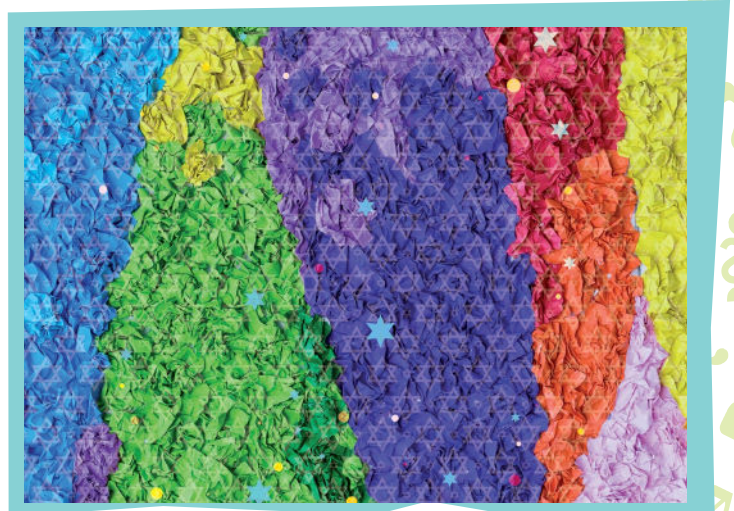


IMG GPO : David Ben-Gurion with an immigrant soldier from Yemen, 1949 - ELDAN DAVID

Even today, Kibbutz Galuyot is one of the IDF's core values, and young Jews from all over the world come to help defend the Jewish homeland.

We see this very clearly in the “Swords of Iron” War, with Jews from many countries working together to protect the State of Israel.

A beautiful painting containing many different colors...



Watch a clip of Israel's soldiers from all over the world:



“Going Up by Foot”

Did you know that within Israel itself there are different levels of holiness?

Jerusalem is the holiest city. When the Temple was standing, Jews from all over Israel and outside “went up” to Jerusalem to sacrifice in the Temple.

And because Jerusalem is the holiest place in the world for Jews, we use the term “going up to Jerusalem.”

Particularly on Pesach, Sukkot and Shavuot, which are also called “The Three Foot Festivals.”

In Hebrew, the Shalosh Regalim “regel” means both “foot” and “festival.”

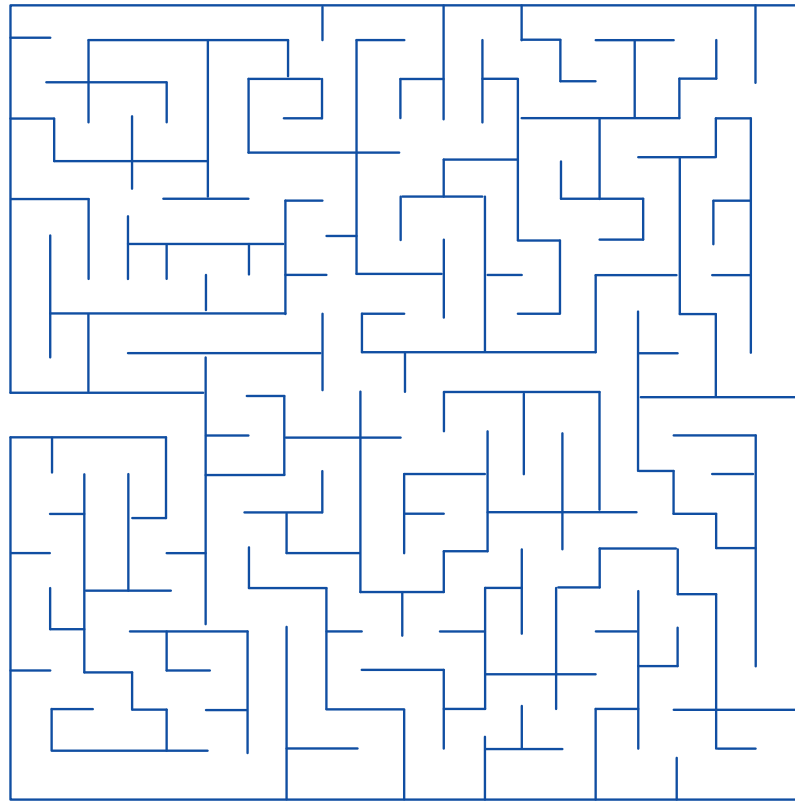
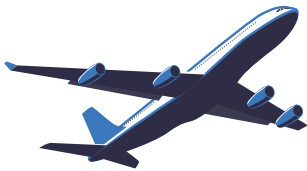
So a person who makes that trip one of the three foot festivals is called an “oleh regel,” a person going up by foot for one of the festivals.



IMG GPO, Kotel Plaza Jerusalem AMOS BEN GERSHOM 1997

The Aliyah Game

Help the plane reach Eretz Yisrael



**Don't miss the new editions of
ISRAEL'S CHILDREN'S NEWS**



**Watch the
"Iron Swords" War edition**

