

# The Declaration of Independence

# The Declaration of Independence

## **Activity objectives:**

1. Introducing the influence of American Jewry and the United States Declaration of Independence that shaped the Israeli Declaration of Independence.
2. Introducing key elements and the content of the Israeli Declaration of Independence.
3. Understanding the importance and significance of the Israeli Declaration of Independence and its relevance to the present.
4. Create an emotional connection to the ideas expressed in the Israeli Declaration of Independence.
5. Learn about the key role of the Jewish National Fund, in its historical context to Jewish statehood and its relevance to today.

**Age group:** Middle school and up (the level of debate may change depending on the age of the group. This activity is modular and you can adjust it to various ages as needed).

**Duration:** 45-90 minutes, the activity may be extended according to the time designated for the activity and the nature of the group.

**Location:** Classroom or outside. A relatively large space is required.

## **Materials needed:**

- Israeli Declaration of Independence in English
- 6 sets of mission cards
- "Our Declaration" poster
- Photo kit
- Pens and paper
- Projector and speakers (not mandatory)
- Yom Ha'atsmaut presentation (not mandatory)

## **Tip for the facilitator:**

This activity includes a number of options for activities and a wide range of topics can be discussed in context of the Israeli Declaration of Independence. Before running this activity you should define what is the emphasis you want to focus on and select the appropriate methods and mission card sets.

## **Activity Layout**

### **Part 1: Opening and Background**

Ask the participants to share what they know about the United States Declaration of Independence:

- On whose behalf is it written?
- When was it written?
- Who drafted it?
- Who signed it?
- What are its goals?
- What events led to its formulation and signature?

After the participants demonstrate knowledge about the United States Declaration of Independence ask- what you know about the Israeli Declaration of Independence? (expect knowledge to be scant).

Introduce the subject of the activity - to expand their knowledge about the Israeli Declaration of Independence.

Ask: Why do you think it is important for us as American Jews to get to know the Israeli Declaration of Independence?

### **Part 2: The Impact of the American Declaration of Independence on Israel's Declaration of Independence**

Ask participants:

- Have you ever wondered how a Declaration of Independence is formulated?
- What skills and abilities are needed for this job?
- What inspiration is needed to write such a scroll?
- What should it contain?

Tell the story of Mordechai Boehm, a junior lawyer who received the task of formulating the Declaration of Independence, after the connection with Jerusalem,

where the early drafts of the Declaration had been composed, had been lost due to the blockade during the War of Independence.

- Ask - how do you approach such a task? What do you think needs to be included in the Declaration of Independence?

Mordechai Boehm was also not sure how to fully answer those questions.

Boehm's widow tells of a family Shabbat dinner on Hayarkon Street in Tel Aviv, a day after her husband was charged with the task. Boehm admitted he had no idea how to start, his relative suggested a lead. He advised him to go to a Jew named Shalom Zvi Davidovich, who lived on the nearby Arnon Street and consult with him. Davidovich, also known as Rabbi Davidovich, was a unique and multifaceted intellectual. He began his studies as a yeshiva student in Lithuania, then immigrated to the US and became a Conservative Rabbi and earned a Ph.D. in the humanities. Later on he immigrated to Israel and in 1943 he received the Tchernichovsky prize for his pioneering work on translating Shakespeare's plays into Hebrew. He also collated and annotated writings of Maimonides. This encounter between the secular Israeli attorney and the religious American intellectual produced the first draft of the Israeli Declaration of Independence.

- Ask: Did you know that an American Jew had a part in drafting Israel's Declaration of Independence?
- Did you know that the American Declaration of Independence inspired the Israeli Declaration of Independence?

Let's examine this in greater depth:

Spread out the Israeli Declaration of Independence (the English version, as it appears in Appendix 1) on the floor.

Hand out cards to the groups, including the legal foundation for the American Declaration of Independence, that characterize the essential parts of the Declaration.

We will ask the participants (group assignment) to find the parallels with the Israeli Declaration of Independence- what are the similarities and differences between the two, both in its structure and style?

Key sentences and a comparative table are in Appendix 4.

### **Part 3: "Declaration Mat"**

In the following stage of the activity we will read and examine the text of the Israeli Declaration of Independence in depth and in a unique manner. Choose one of the

following methods according to your time restrictions and the character of your group.

Here are a few important guidelines relevant to all of these methods:

1. The group must read the mission card they've received carefully (or observe the image on the card) and then read through the Declaration and place the card next to the words, sentences or ideas that match it.
2. Out of respect for the Declaration we do not step on the "Declaration Mat", rather we walk around it.
3. A mission card may match a few different words, sentences or ideas in the Declaration. The participants should choose the most precise and suitable option in their opinion.
4. Two mission cards may match the exact same words, sentences or ideas in the Declaration. That is intentional and not a mistake.

**Notes for the facilitator:**

- It is important to relate to broad abstract ideas in the discussion, relate the content of the Declaration to the lives of the participants, talk about contemporary implications that may derive from it, and make them realize the Declaration is relevant to them and not just a historical document.
- It is important to emphasize the context of the JNF, not only the important historical role it had in the establishment of the State, but also its role in contemporary Zionism and to its current enterprises.
- After the participants have chosen where to place their mission card by the "Declaration Mat", it is important to have it read in context - be sure you read out the entire paragraph from the Declaration and not only the chosen sentence.
- Make sure the group moves around the mat, allowing them to get closer to the relevant text and "zoom in" on it.
- Encourage the participants to debate where to place the mission card and voice their personal opinion if they disagree with the location the group has chosen.
- Here are some general topics you should relate to regardless of specific choices the group makes in these activities:
  1. The Declaration addresses a wide range of sectors in Israeli society, and represents a compromise acceptable by the representatives of each of these sectors.
  2. The place of religion and God in the text of the declaration
  3. The only person mentioned by name except the people who signed the Declaration is Theodor Herzl- why?

4. The Declaration addresses not only Jews citizens of Israel but also our Arab neighbors and the nations of the world.
5. The Declaration represents the partnership between Jewish people living in Israel and those in the Diaspora.

### **Option 1: single kit**

- Choose one of the mission card kits and hand out the 6 cards to the participants (4-5 participants per card). Ask all members of the group to look at the cards they have received, read the caption / look at the image and understand its content. Then ask them to place the card next to the appropriate matching sentence on the mat.
- Reconvening in the plenum, each team presents the card they've received in turn; the matching sentence they've found and the reasons for explain their choice. Lead a discussion about one of the issues that arises from the cards, based on the info and tips in the charts below (appendix 4).

### **Option 2: Two kits - historical and contemporary characters.**

- Divide the group into two competing groups and give each group a mission card kit. Ask each group to divide the cards between members (one card per 2-3 participants). The goal is to place all of the cards in their kit by the relevant sentences by the "Declaration Mat" in the shortest time. The first team to finish placing all of the cards wins.
- Ask - what is common to all the mission cards you have received? Turn your attention the places where you can compare two sets of figures - a historical figure and a contemporary character. Moderate a discussion on continuity throughout the ages and on the relevance of the Declaration not only in its historical context but also as a living document that continues to shape Israel today.

### **Option 3: All kits**

- Divide the group into five teams. Each team will receive a mission cards kit and will need to match all of the cards in their kit with sentences on the "Declaration Mat". This is not a contest, but you should limit the amount of time they have to accomplish this goal.
- Convene in the plenum, ask representatives from each team to present and explain their choices. Moderate discussions on selected topics based on the info and topic lists in appendix 4.

#### **Option 4: All kits, shuffled up**

- Shuffle and lay out all mission card kits randomly around the “Declaration Mat”. Ask each pair of participants to choose one card that relates to them the most and match it with a sentence in the “Declaration Mat”.
- Invite volunteers to explain their choice and present the card they’ve chosen. Moderate discussions on a selected topics based on the info and topic lists in appendix 4.

#### **Part 4: Back to the Future**

Now that we’ve read and discussed the Declaration, and discussed it in depth, ask: Who is the declaration geared towards? What are its main messages? What are its goals? Amongst other things, the Charter includes:

1. Addressing the world - how does the Jewish state define itself in relation to the rest of the world?
2. Addressing our neighbors- how will the state relate to its Arab neighbors as part of the region?
3. Justifying the right for a Jewish state- why we deserve a state of our own, what are the valid reasons and circumstances for declaring independence?
4. Addressing future citizens of the country, the Jewish people in the Diaspora
5. Self-definition, vision and values - the character of the state

Read out the following paragraph from the “Declaration Mat” describing the vision for the character of the new state:

*“The State of Israel will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations”.*

- Ask: How can we make sure the vision of the Declaration of Independence will remain relevant in the reality of Israel today?

Discuss with the participants the importance of the state to have a defined and implementable vision for the future. Ask the participants to offer practical proposals, how each person can make a difference, lead and become involved. Give examples

from the field of Zionist ecology and additional fields the Jewish National Fund is engaged in, calling them to join and lead in these fields.

Following the discussion, divide the group into teams of 4-6 participants. Each team will receive paper and pens. Their objective is to write a one-sentence vision for Israel's future that will include specific and implementable goals for Israel today. They should relate to previous discussions held during part three of this activity (The Declaration Mat) as inspiration for their vision. Encourage critical thinking- what still needs to be improved in Israeli society in order for it to become a model society? Back on the plenum, each team will share their written vision statement for Israel. Write all of these sentences on the "Our Declaration" poster attached to this kit. Once done, ask all participants to sign the declaration and hang it up in the classroom.

\*Option: If you intend on running the "Birth of a Nation" activity along with this activity then you should consider signing "Our Declaration" as part of that activity, when reenacting the historical declaration event.



## **Appendix 1: The Israeli Declaration of Independence (in English)**

### **The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel**

The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, defiant returnees, and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country. This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home.

The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people - the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State, which would open the gates of the homeland wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully privileged member of the community of nations. Survivors of the Nazi holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz-Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.



In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations. On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz-Israel to take such steps as were necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable.

This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.

Accordingly we, members of the People's Council, representatives of the Jewish Community of Eretz-Israel and of the Zionist Movement, are here assembled on the day of the termination of the British Mandate over Eretz-Israel and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on

the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel.

We declare that, with effect from the moment of the termination of the Mandate being tonight, the eve of Sabbath, the 6th Iyar, 5708 (15th May, 1948), until the establishment of the elected, regular authorities of the State in accordance with the Constitution which shall be adopted by the Elected Constituent Assembly not later than the 1st October 1948, the People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Israel."

The State of Israel will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The State of Israel is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of the 29th November, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union of the whole of Eretz-Israel. We appeal to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the community of nations.

We appeal - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the up building of



the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

We extend our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

We appeal to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and up building and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.

Placing our trust in the Almighty, we affix our signatures to this proclamation at this session of the provisional Council of State, on the soil of the Homeland, in the city of Tel-Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the 5th day of Iyar, 5708 (14th May, 1948).

## **Appendix 2:**

### **The United States Declaration of Independence**

**IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.**

**The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,**

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he

has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of

Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

### 3. Parallels Between the U.S. Declaration of Independence and the Israeli Declaration of Independence

The U.S. Declaration of Independence	A parallel from the Israeli Declaration	Topic
We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.	The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.	Truths
to secure these <b>rights</b> , Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, -- That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the <b>Right</b> of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government	This recognition by the United Nations of the <b>right</b> of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable.  This <b>right</b> is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.	Reasoning for the right for independence
In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms... Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here... They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation	In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations	Self justification for independence
<b>We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled</b> , appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good	<b>Accordingly we</b> , members of the People's Council, <b>representatives of the Jewish Community of Eretz-Israel and of the Zionist Movement, are here assembled</b> on the day of the termination of the British Mandate over	The actual declaration

<p>People of these Colonies, <b>solemnly publish and declare</b>, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be <b>Free and Independent States...</b></p>	<p>Eretz-Israel and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, <b>hereby declare</b> the establishment of a <b>Jewish state in Eretz-Israel</b>, to be known as the State of Israel..</p>	
<p><b>And for the support of this Declaration</b>, with a firm <b>reliance</b> on the protection of <b>divine Providence</b>, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.</p>	<p>Placing our <b>trust in the Almighty</b>, we affix our signatures <b>to this proclamation</b> at this session of the provisional Council of State</p>	<p>Closing signature</p>



## Appendix 4: Matching Cards to Sentences in the Israeli Declaration

### Kit 1: Historical Figures

Image	Matching sentence from the Declaration	Additional matching sentence	Topics for discussion
Theodor Herzl	In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.	...Created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.	The vision that led to the establishment of the state, the early days of Zionism, Altneuland as a utopian society, Is Herzl's political Zionism outdated and what is current the role of Zionism?
Zvi Herman Shapirah	In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.	In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, defiant returnees, and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture.	The foundation of the JNF, its historical role in redeeming the land, settlement and forestation, its contribution to the foundation of the state, its contemporary contribution.
Eliezer Ben Yehuda	In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, defiant returnees, and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture.	it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture;	Revival of the Hebrew language as part of the Zionist dream, the story of Itamar Ben Avi (Ben Yehuda's son), Hebrew as an evolving modern language, the role and the importance (or lack of) of Hebrew to American Jewry today.

Pioneers	In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, defiant returnees, and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture.	the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations.	Ha'apalah (illegal immigration to Palestine during the Mandate era) and strengthening Jewish settlement as a necessity for the establishment of the State. What is "pioneering" nowadays? What is the wasteland that needs blooming in Israel today?
Members of the "Haganah"	Created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.	the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations	The Jewish Brigade, the Jewish underground organizations (is a violent struggle against the British Mandate legitimate or not?), the foundation of the IDF, aspiring for peace along with the need to defend ourselves- then and now
Jewish holocaust refugees	Survivors of the Nazi holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz-Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.	The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people - the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State.	The Holocaust as a pivotal event in the recognition of the need and right of the Jewish state, The status of Holocaust survivors nowadays, never again

## Kit 2: Contemporary Figures

Image	Matching sentence from the Declaration	Additional matching sentence	Topics for discussion
The religious justification for the establishment of	The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish	Placing our trust in the Almighty, we affix our	Orthodox Jew

the State, the controversy around adding the God to the declaration, issues of religion and state in Israel- then and now..	people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.	signatures to this proclamation	
Israel as a start up nation, the Jewish brain, Israeli Chutzpah, tikkun olam, JNF's research and development centers, agriculture and farmers in Israel today.	We extend our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land.	...Created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.	Research and Development researcher
Women's rights in Israel, issues of religion and state, the status of pluralistic Jewish movements in Israel today – how do all of these issues impact Israeli-Diaspora relations?	The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.	it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex;	Women of the Wall
Women's rights in Israel, obligatory army service for all, aspirations for peace along with the need to defend ourselves- then and now.	the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United	it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex;	Israeli Soldiers

	Nations.		
Ecology in Israel, making wasteland bloom, preservation vs. development, Zionist ecology, the JNF's various enterprises.	In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, defiant returnees, and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture	it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants	JNF forester
Women's rights in Israel, the status of minorities in Israel and their loyalty to the State, equality between Jewish and non Jewish citizens, Arabic as one of the official languages in Israel.	it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture;	it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex;	Israeli Arab voter
The importance of Aliyah to the future of the state, Israel as a multicultural society, how do we treat our olim (including the hardships of Aliyah), the partnership with U.S. Jewry	We appeal to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and up building and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.	Survivors of the Nazi Holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz-Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.	New immigrants from Ethiopia

### Kit 3: Places in Israel

Image	Matching sentence from the Declaration	Additional matching sentence	Topics for discussion
The Negev – Combatting Desertification	In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, defiant returnees, and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and	We extend our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of	Ecology across borders, Israel as a pioneer in ecological research and development, the role of JNF in combatting Desertification and developing global

	created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture.	cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land.	solutions on this topic, the collective responsibility for the entire region on ecological matters and our commitment to the future of the region.
A agricultural research and development lab in the Arava	Created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.	We extend our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land.	Israel as a start up nation, the Jewish brain, Israeli Chutzpah, Tikkun Olam, JNF's research and development centers, agriculture and farmers in Israel today.
The Jezreel Valley	In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, defiant returnees, and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture.	In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.	The redemption of the lands in the Jezreel valley. The historic role of the JNF in settling the land, settlement in Israel today.
Jerusalem	Not mentioned in the declaration	Not mentioned in the declaration	Why isn't Jerusalem mentioned at all in the declaration? Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the declaration taking place in Tel Aviv and NOT in Jerusalem, the international status of Jerusalem today
KKL-JNF forests	it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants	In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, defiant returnees, and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns,	Ecology in Israel, making wasteland bloom, preservation vs. development, Zionist ecology, the JNF's various enterprises.

		and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture.	
The Hula nature reserve	it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants	The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.	The story of drying up the Hula swamp and how it was turned into a nature reserve, Ecology across borders, Israel as a pioneer in ecological research and development, the role of JNF in combating desertification and developing global solutions on this topic, the collective responsibility for the entire region on ecological matters and our commitment to the future of the region

#### Kit 4: JNF Enterprises

Topics for discussion	Additional matching sentence	Matching sentence from the Declaration	Image
The reasons for and story of the establishment of the JNF, the Blue Box as an educational tool and means for fundraising, the collective responsibility of Diaspora Jewry to the fate of the young state in the past and in the present.	In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.	We appeal to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and up building and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.	The Blue Box
Ha'apalah (illegal immigration to Palestine during the Mandate era) and strengthening Jewish settlement as a	...And never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.	In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, defiant returnees, and defenders, they made deserts bloom,	Settlements and land redemption

necessity for the establishment of the State, What is "pioneering" nowadays? What is the wasteland that needs blooming in Israel today?		revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture.	
Educating for Zionism and love of the land, leadership, responsibility and activism.		it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture;	Education
Ecology in Israel, making wasteland bloom, preservation vs. development, Zionist ecology, the JNF's various enterprises.	In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, defiant returnees, and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture.	it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants	Forestation
Israel as a start up nation, the Jewish brain, Israeli Chutzpah, Tikkun Olam, JNF's research and development centers, agriculture and farmers in Israel today.	We extend our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.	Created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.	Research and development
Ecology in Israel, making wasteland bloom, preservation vs. development, Zionist	We extend our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good	it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants	River rehabilitation and water

ecology, the JNF's various enterprises.	neighborliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.		reservoirs
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### Kit 5: The character of Israel today

Topics for discussion	Additional matching sentence	Matching sentence from the Declaration	Image
The quest for peace as an essential characteristic of the state, Israel as part of the Mid-East region, How can we achieve peace? How do American Jews perceive the conflict?	We appeal - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the up building of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.	We appeal to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and up building and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.	Israel strives for peace
What Israeli inventions do you use regularly? Israel as a start up nation, the Jewish brain, Israeli Chutzpah, Tikkun Olam, JNF's research and development centers, agriculture and farmers in Israel today.	We extend our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of	In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, defiant returnees, and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture.	Israel as a "Start up Nation", Hi-Tec, Innovation and creativity



	the entire Middle East.		
The religious justification for the establishment of the State, the controversy around adding the God to the declaration, issues of religion and state in Israel- then and nowadays.	The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.	it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture;	Israel- A Jewish state
Women's rights in Israel, the status of minorities in Israel and their loyalty to the State, equality between Jewish and non Jewish citizens, Arabic as one of the official languages in Israel. With mature participants- the issue of Bedouins in the Negev / African asylum seekers	Created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.	it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants	Israel is based on justice, peace and equality
Ecology in Israel, making wasteland bloom, preservation vs. development, Zionist ecology, the JNF's various enterprises.	We extend our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.	Created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.	Israel promotes sustainable environmental solutions
The partnership	The State of Israel will be	it will foster the	Israel belongs

between Israel and Diaspora Jewry- what do we love about Israel? What makes us identify with Israel, and what makes us want to disengage?	open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles	development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants	to all Jews, from all over the world
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