



Learn about Tu B'Shvat!



In Tu B'Shvat past, Malkhut has partnered with artist and community member Lisa Huberman to create a collaborative and interactive Tu B'Shvat tree installation. While we aren't able to get together this year, Lisa has shared with us a tree she has created in her home. She used cardboard, magazine paper, and painter's tape to complete this mixed-media collage on her wall! Interspersed through the branches are framed artworks. You can learn more about Lisa's work by visiting her website: lisahuberman.com.



Have you ever heard about the festival of Tu B'Shvat? In English, Tu B'Shvat translates to "the 15th of the month of Shevat," and refers to a specific day on the Jewish calendar. In this Shaboom! video, you will learn about two aspects of the holiday.

At the beginning of the video, little Layla hugs the tree in her backyard and sings "Happy birthday to trees, Happy birthday to trees!" By doing this, Layla is referring the oldest celebrations or practices around Tu B'Shvat. During this time of year, a long, long time ago, it was on the 15th of Shevat that Jewish farmers would check to see how old each tree was. This was an important practice because it was tradition for Jewish farmers to wait a full three years before picking any fruits or nuts off their newly planted trees.

In the next part of the video, Layla's dad tells her how their family (the Plonys) celebrates the festival with a seder. You may have heard the word seder before, especially during holidays like Passover. The word seder means "order," and can be used any time you are hosting a meal that has many different parts.

[Learn More About Tu B'Shvat](#)

How many parts are there to the Tu B'Shvat *seder*?

What are some of the special foods eaten at the Tu B'Shvat *seder*?



Tu B'Shvat Higiya sung by Oshy Tugendhaft

*Hashkediya porachat
Veshemesh paz zorachat,
Tziporim merosh kol gag
Mevasrot et bo hachag.*

The almond tree is blooming
And the golden sun is shining,
Birds atop each roof
Announcing the arrival of the festival.

*Tu bishvat higiya
Chag la'ilanot.
Tu bish'vat higiya
Chag la'ilanot.*

Tu bishvat has arrived
(it's) the festival of trees.
Tu bishvat has arrived
(it's) the festival of trees.

*Ha'arets meshava'at
Higiya et lata'at
Kol echad yikach lo etz
Be'atim nitzeh chotzetz.*

The land is crying out
The time of planting has arrived
Each person shall take a tree
We'll stride out with spades.

Tu bishvat higiya...

Tu bishvat has arrived...

*Hashemesh zorachat
Vecham me'od hayom.
Ani mekavah mezeg ha'avir
Sheyisha'er bahir.*

The sun is shining
And it's very hot today
I hope the weather
Stays bright.

[Listen to the Song](#)



Tu B'Shvat holds special meaning for Indian Jews. According to legend, it is on this day that seven Jewish men and seven Jewish women from ancient Israel were shipwrecked off the coast of ancient India. Fearing for their lives, the 14 survivors prayed to Eliyahu Hanavi (Elijah the Prophet) and were saved. In memory and thanksgiving, Indian Jews mark Tu B'Shvat with a special ceremony called *malida*. -Be'chol Lashon

"Often I am asked what Indian Jewish food is... If there is a single dish that defines Indian Jewish cooking it is Malida. The dish is made of parched, flattened, thin rice flakes, called Poha, that are sweetened. Coconut, cardamon and thinly sliced, blanched almonds and pistachios are added to the sweetened Malida and piled on a thali with five fruits and vegetables (dates, bananas, oranges, apples or any other fruit in season), to pray over what God has given us from the earth and from the tree." -Shulie Madnick

[Follow The Recipe](#)



Tu B'Shvat, in addition to being an ancient farming tradition and yummy fruit-filled seder, is a great time to think about our environment. What comes to mind when you think about taking care of our planet?

Let's put our science caps on and think about the environment as we complete this fun STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activity! Try to build a strong, balanced, and steady tree using recycled materials found in your home.

Materials:

- Recycled junk mail, cardboard boxes, etc.
- Scissors
- Tape
- Marker

[Watch How-To Video](#)