

Peoplehood אהדות

Together with your fellow Jewish schools around the globe, you are taking part in the longest, largest Tu Bishvat seder in Jewish history!

Using this live, interactive video technology, what message would you like to convey to the other schools?

Please prepare a question to ask one of the other schools, such as:

- What's it like to live in your country?
- How is Tu Bishvat celebrated in your community?
- What does Israel mean to you and your community?



Tu Bishvat Traditions in Different Communities:

In **Israel**, it is the custom to eat 15 types of fruit, because the holiday is celebrated on the 15th ("Tu") of Shvat. Many customs have evolved around fresh and dried fruits and nuts, and many organizations and synagogues hold Tu Bishvat seders.

In many **Sephardic** communities, "Ilanot" (Tu Bishvat) is marked by night-long study sessions, broken by refreshment breaks of the same sort of foods used in the seder, or Las Frutas. These foods include a pudding called assure' with wheat berries, chickpeas, nuts and fruit, and food made from wheat, like bread, cake and cookies.



In the Diaspora, Jews traditionally eat dried fruit imported from Israel, and nuts. Bokser (carob) is included because it is hardy enough to ship to communities around the world without fear of spoilage.

In **Greece and Turkey**, grains, fig seeds, date seeds, and melon seeds are set aside for spring planting before the seder ends. It is the custom to present family and friends with pastries, dried fruit, halvah, strawberries, figs, raisins, or carob. A Turkish custom was to give 91 coins as tzedaka (charity), as 91 is the equivalent of ilan (tree).

A **Mediterranean** Sephardic dinner might include a Turkish egg and potato salad, beet and cauliflower salad, a lentil soup with spinach, pastries with potato and cheese filling, apricots stuffed with marzipan, a fresh orange compote, and assure'.

A **Yiddish** dinner might include a fresh vegetable soup, orange roast chicken, orange-scented fruit kugel, and prune pudding with almond macaroons.

An **Italian** dinner might offer rigatoni with butter and cheese, fried fish, bean salad, creamed fennel, a cake and dates, dried figs with walnuts, or a chestnut pie.

The **Greek** Jews recite three blessings—one over wheat, one over fruits of the tree and vine, and a third over fruits of the earth. Children go from house to house and receive bolsas, or bags of mixed fruits.

Sweet desserts like halva, baklava and assure' are served.