



Sukkot

1. As pupils enter

Have the webpage open. Play your chosen music and display one of the images if you wish.

2. Introduction

Tell the children that they will be finding out about the Jewish festival of *Sukkot*. Explain to the group that Sukkot has its origins among Jewish communities in Israel but is now celebrated by Jews all over the world, including in the UK. Ask the children to look out for the meanings behind the traditions of Sukkot.

3. Play the video

The duration is 4' 06". Final words: '...Happy holiday! *Chag Sameach!*'

4. After the video - Time to talk

Ask the children: **Turn to the person next to you and tell them which part of the festival of Sukkot you would enjoy the most.**

Then lead a discussion about the video to help children consolidate their understanding of the festival and its significance:

- **Sukkot is a harvest festival and a time to give thanks. Can you remember how long the festival lasts?** (1 week).
- **During the festival, Jews build and decorate a basic hut called a sukkah. Who can tell me why they do this?** (To remember their ancestors who escaped slavery in Egypt and wandered in the desert living in temporary shelters).
- **What are some of the requirements for the construction of a sukkah?** (At least three walls, a roof of plants, holes in the roof to see God's light).
- **During Sukkot, Jewish families spend time in the sukkah, recite prayers, have big family meals, and sing and dance. But what other special things do they do?** (Taking of the four species, beating willow branches on the ground).
- **Can you remember the significance of these activities?** (Unity and a reminder that God is all around; for the willow branches - getting rid of sin).
- **Can anyone tell me what the main message of the festival of Sukkot?** (To give thanks and remind Jews of their faith).
- **What lessons can Sukkot teach us, regardless of our own faith?** (To appreciate and be grateful for our comforts).

6. Opportunity to sing

If your assembly is to include a song this would be a good time to sing.

Video page



7. Opportunity to reflect

Focus your reflection on the core message of Sukkot - gratitude and appreciation for the comforts of our daily lives. Ask the children to sit quietly and think about the things they have around them that make life easy and comfortable, and consider that there are people around the world that don't enjoy those same comforts. Spending time in a sukkah during Sukkot helps Jewish people appreciate the protection of God, and the festival can teach us all to be grateful for what we have.

8. Opportunity for prayer

Begin with your usual form of address and:

Thank you for the lessons we can learn from the festival of Sukkot. Help us to appreciate our daily comforts...

...and do what we can to help others less fortunate than ourselves. Amen.