

Craft Activity
Individual or family

Tu B'Shevat Tree Mural
Trees in Jewish Tradition



It is a tree of life for those who grasp it, and all who uphold it are blessed. (*Etz chayim be lamachazikim bah...*)

Genesis 2:8

The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and place there the man whom He had formed. And from the ground the LORD God caused to grow every trees that was pleasing to the sight and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and bad.

Deuteronomy 20:19-20

When in your war against a city you have to besiege it a long time in order to capture it, you must not destroy its trees, wielding the ax against them. You may eat of them, but you must not cut them down. Are trees of the field human to withdraw before you into the besieged city? Only trees that you know do not yield food may be destroyed; you may cut them down for constructing siege works against the city that is waging war on you, until it has been reduced.

Proverbs 3:18

She (wisdom) is a tree of life...

Micah 4:4

But they shall sit every man under his vine and his fig tree and none shall make them afraid.

Leviticus 19:23

And when you come into the land, you shall plant all manner of trees.

Genesis 3:7

...and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves clothing.

Genesis 6:14

...make an ark of gopher wood...

Exodus 27:20

...and they bring unto You pure olive oil beaten for the light...

Leviticus 23:40

An the first day you shall take the product of hadar trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brooks, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God...

II Samuel 6:5

And David...played before the LORD with all manner of instruments made of cypress wood...

I Kings 6:15

And Solomon...built the walls of the house within with boards of cedar...and he covered the floor of the house with boards of cypress.

Psalms 137:1-2

By the rivers of Babylon...upon the willows in the midst thereof we hanged our harps.

Psalms 92:13

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Bereishit Rabbah 13

All of the trees have been created for the enjoyment of man.

Yalkut Shimoni, Deuteronomy 20

Man's life is dependent upon the tree.

Pirkei Avot 3:22

With what is he to be compared whose wisdom exceed his works? With a tree whose branches are many, but whose roots are few; there comes a storm, plucks it up and fells it to the ground...But what does he resemble whose works exceed his wisdom? A tree who branches are few, but whose roots are many; the stormiest winds...cannot stir it from its place.

Jochanah ben Zakkai, Avot de Rabbi Nathan, 31b

If you are in the act of planting a tree and you are told 'Behold the Messiah is coming!', plant your sapling first and only then go and greet the Messiah.

Activity**Tu B'Shevat Tree Mural****Suggested materials:**

long sheet of white butcher paper divided into 18 squares
18 individual sheets of paper cut to the size of the squares
markers
colored paper
fabric

wrapping paper
string, ribbon
magazines
glue
any other materials that are useful for decorations

Directions:

1. Assign one or two quotes per individual (depending on how many are participating).
2. Write the quote onto the square – or provide them already printed out to fit each square.
3. Using the many varieties of materials, illuminate the passage with the above materials.
4. Glue or attach each of the squares to the long paper and display.
5. As a closing activity, participants can discuss their illuminations.

Use for decoration in your synagogue's sukkah next year.

Remember that the design is an individual choice – it can be literal or symbolic, realistic or abstract. Most important is to foster creativity.