

jewish heart for africa

Light Up Africa Lesson Plan:

Step 1: Introduction

This lesson is meant to be used after students have already learned the story of Hanukkah, and are familiar with the general concepts and themes of the holiday. The lesson can be used for students of all ages.

Leading Questions (2 mins)—First, ask them why we light the menorah on Hanukkah? Let the students quickly retell the story about the oil lasting for eight days. Next, ask them what the light was used for. If they don't know, tell them that it was a sacred light, meant to be lit at all times in the Temple. Finish this short discussion and segue into Step 2 by announcing that there are many uses for light, and that energy comes in many forms.

Step 2: Making a List

Activity (5 mins)—Ask students what they use energy for in their day-to-day lives. Make a list on the board of all their answers. Encourage them to call out as many ideas as possible, digging deeper than just light in their homes. Guide them to talk about community facilities for public benefit (ex: transportation, healthcare, education). This should be quick, rapid-fire suggestions with the goal of filling up the board with their answers.

Step 3: Show Map of Africa at Night Handout

Activity (3 mins)—Ask students to find something they recognize on the map. Can they identify any of the countries/continents? What is the difference between Europe and Africa at night?

Step 4: 97%

Announcement (1 min)—Announce the following statistic: “97% of African villagers live without electricity.” Point to the board. This means that 97% of people living in African villages go without everything listed.

Step 5: Kaliro Orphanage Handout

Activity (3 mins)—Read through the handout with your students. This handout tells the story of orphaned children living without light, and the way in which Israeli solar technologies have changed their community.

Step 6: So This Comes from Israel?

Activity (5 mins)—Turn over the sheet to show students a list of Israeli innovations. Tell them that Israel is a leader in the alternative energy industry, and that using their technologies, we can improve lives of African people, like the children of Kaliro Orphanage.

Step 7: Back to Hanukkah

Discussion (10-15 mins)—Encourage students to make their own connection by asking them why this lesson, and why now? Allow them to guide the discussion in ways that interest them. Suggestions for topics to cover include:

- In what ways is the story of Kaliro Orphanage similar to that of Hanukkah?
- Sustainability—using the idea of a light that lasted for eight days instead of one, begin a conversation about sustainable change (FYI: Solar panels function at maximum capacity, with virtually no maintenance or operating costs for over 20 years).
- The concept of “Light unto the Nations.” What does this actually mean?
- Hanukkah is also a holiday that celebrates the preservation of our faith. Our enemies tried to conquer us, but we persevered. Does helping others outside our own communities help us as a nation? Does Israel stand to benefit from engaging with the international community on projects like this?

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Allan is an orphan. Shortly before both his parents died of AIDS, they brought him to Kaliro Orphanage. For nearly three years, Allan has been living in the Kaliro dormitory, going to bed each night alone and in the dark.

Kaliro is miles from any electricity and candles and kerosene lamps are too expensive for them to afford. This means that once the sun sets, the day is over. No homework can be done, no games can be played. His whole life Allan has dreamed of one thing: to be read a bedtime story. But without light, this was not possible.

Recently, there has been a great change in Kaliro. Six months ago, Jewish Heart for Africa used solar technology from Israel to bring light to the children of the orphanage. Now, the dormitories and classrooms are lit up at night for the first time. Children sit in well-lit rooms in the evening to do their homework and study. Teachers prepare their lessons in the light. And now, children can finally read in bed.

Allan, at six years old, has now heard his first bedtime story. He follows along carefully with his finger as the older children read to him. And each night, as he sounds out the words to some new fairytale, he comes closer to doing what his parents never could. Allan is leaning to read by himself, and for the first time doesn't feel so alone.



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Israeli Technology Fun Facts:

1. Sun Power

An Israeli company was the first to develop and install a large-scale solar-powered and fully functional electricity generating plant, in southern California's Mojave desert.

2. Saving Water, One Drip at a Time

In response to serious water shortages, Israeli engineers and agriculturalists developed a revolutionary drip irrigation system to minimize the amount of water used to grow crops. This technology is being used in many sub-Saharan African countries which use these methods to feed large populations.

3. Like Your Cell Phone?

The cell phone was developed in Israel by Motorola, which has its largest development center in Israel.

4. Please Leave A Message

Voice mail technology was developed in Israel. Many cutting-edge Related Voice Manipulation Technologies were and are being developed in Israel.

5. IM — An Israeli Innovation

The technology for AOL Instant Messenger was developed in 1996 by four young Israelis. The program ICQ, which is the technological basis for AOL Instant Messenger, was developed in 1996 by four young Israelis.

6. Electric Busses — No More Smog

An Israeli company is providing the technology behind an American all-electric bus for urban use.

Find these facts and many more at: <http://www.israelatsixty.ca/engine.cfm?i=20>