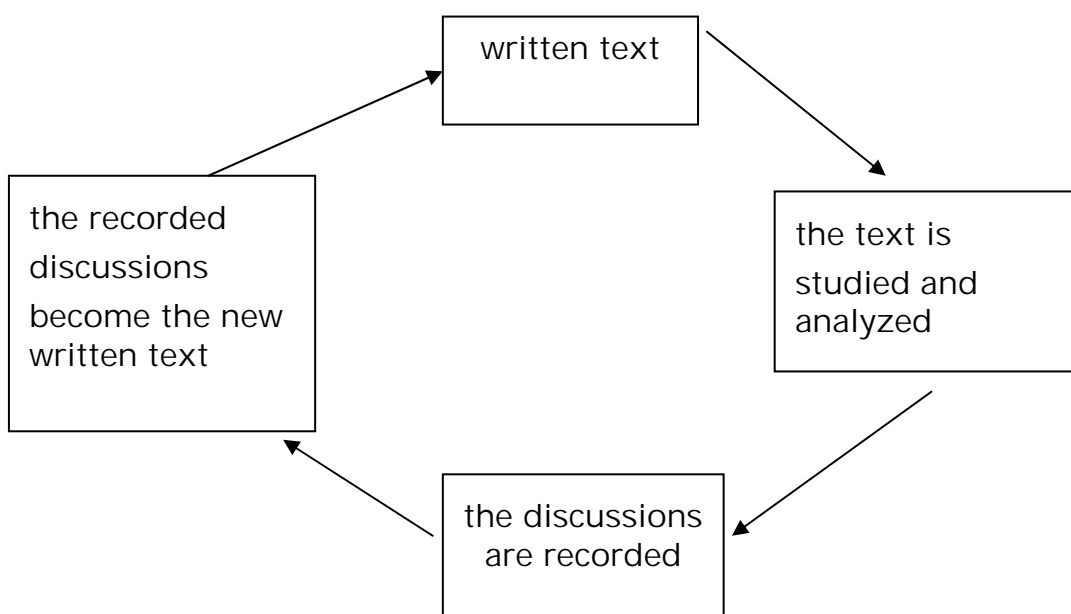


## Researching the development of תורה שבעל פה

תורה שבעל פה is a broad term including lots of different kinds of learning. The process of learning and transmitting תורה שבעל פה began at Sinai, and continues till this very day! Still, there are distinct phases and patterns in the development of תורה שבעל פה. One pattern is that we begin with a body of written material which is studied in depth for an extended period of time. At some point, those discussions get recorded in written form, and it is that new document which becomes the object of intense study for an extended period of time. Those discussions get recorded too, and then they become the subject of study ... and so on in a process which keeps Torah learning lively to this very day. Each era of study is often marked by the publication of a major work meant to summarize and organize those discussions.



Because the process has been going on for so long, lots of people are confused by it. Your contribution to the development of תורה שבעל פה is to create a historical organizer which will make the whole process clearer. One excellent way to do this is to explore the different eras and create a timeline. You may want to prepare your timeline for presentation on a poster, or you may even want to create an interactive one on the computer or do a dramatic presentation. You may want to include brief

biographies, relevant pictures, etc. – anything you think will make this complicated jumble easier to understand and more interesting. (Some of you will have noticed the bars on the sides of the pages of this booklet, which may be helpful, but is missing quite a bit, which you will soon discover.)

For each era, find the following information:

1. Does the era have a name?
2. What are the approximate dates of that era?
3. Is there a name or title which is used to describe the major personalities of that era?
4. What are the names of three major personalities of that era?
5. Was there a single written work which characterizes the era?
6. If yes, what is it called? How the information organized?
7. What other facts make this era stand out?

To assist you in your research we have three resource lists. First, a list of key names and terminology in תורה שבעל פה, all jumbled up, which you will need to include in your timeline. (Of course, you should include more than these, but these can help you.) Second is a list of websites with lots of useful information. These sites have been organized for you, in more or less chronological order, by the different eras. Of course, when it comes to the web, once you start you never know where it's going to lead! And be careful, because there are some sites out there which will give you information from distinctly non-Jewish or non-traditional perspectives! Third is a brief list of some books which you should find helpful.

Good luck!

Resource list #1

תנאים	שולחן ערוך	תלמוד בבלי	משנה	רמב"ם
	ראשונים	מפה	גמרא	רמ"א
	זוגות	אמוראים	גאונים	כנסת הגדולה
		תלמוד ירושלמי		תורה שבעל פה

Resource list #2

Oral Law

<http://www.faq.org/faqs/judaism/FAQ/03-Torah-Halacha/section-6.html>  
[http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Judaism/Oral\\_Law.html](http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Judaism/Oral_Law.html)  
<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=113&letter=O>

Transmission

<http://www.faq.org/faqs/judaism/FAQ/03-Torah-Halacha/section-7.html>

כנסת הגדולה

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=1214&letter=S&search=assembly>  
<http://www.faq.org/faqs/judaism/FAQ/03-Torah-Halacha/section-8.html>  
[http://www.aish.com/literacy/jewishhistory/Crash\\_Course\\_in\\_Jewish\\_History\\_26 -  
The Great Assembly.asp](http://www.aish.com/literacy/jewishhistory/Crash_Course_in_Jewish_History_26_-_The_Great_Assembly.asp)

זוגות

<http://www.faq.org/faqs/judaism/FAQ/03-Torah-Halacha/section-9.html>  
<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=157&letter=Z>

מדרש הלכה

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=588&letter=M>

משנה

<http://www.faq.org/faqs/judaism/FAQ/03-Torah-Halacha/section-10.html>  
[http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Judaism/talmud\\_&\\_mishna.html](http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Judaism/talmud_&_mishna.html)  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/TalmudMap/Mishnah.html>  
[http://www.aish.com/literacy/jewishhistory/Crash\\_Course\\_in\\_Jewish\\_History Part 3  
9 - Talmud.asp](http://www.aish.com/literacy/jewishhistory/Crash_Course_in_Jewish_History_Part_3_9_-_Talmud.asp)

#### תנאים

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/html/T/Tannaim.asp>  
<http://www.davidsconsultants.com/jewishhistory/history.php?anchor=200Tannaim>  
<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=59&letter=T>

#### גמרא

<http://www.faq.s.org/faqs/judaism/FAQ/03-Torah-Halacha/section-16.html>  
<http://www.faq.s.org/faqs/judaism/FAQ/03-Torah-Halacha/section-17.html>  
<http://www.faq.s.org/faqs/judaism/FAQ/03-Torah-Halacha/section-18.html>  
<http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Judaism/talmud & mishna.html>  
<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=32&letter=T>  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/TalmudPage.html>  
[http://www.aish.com/literacy/jewishhistory/Crash\\_Course\\_in\\_Jewish\\_History\\_Part\\_3\\_9 - Talmud.asp](http://www.aish.com/literacy/jewishhistory/Crash_Course_in_Jewish_History_Part_3_9_-_Talmud.asp)  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/TalmudMap/ShA.html>  
<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/6/6/s6-216-e.html>

#### גאונים

<http://www.ort.org/ort/edu/rolnik/halacha/geonim.htm>  
<http://ohr.edu/judaism/survey/survey6.htm>  
<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=68&letter=G>

#### ראשונים

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=307&letter=R>  
<http://www.ou.org/about/judaism/r.htm>  
<http://www.netivot-shalom.org.il/judaism/rishon.php>  
<http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/biography/rashi.html>  
<http://www.faq.s.org/faqs/judaism/FAQ/03-Torah-Halacha/section-20.html>  
<http://www.faq.s.org/faqs/judaism/FAQ/03-Torah-Halacha/section-21.html>  
<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=276&letter=T>  
<http://www.uscj.org/metny/middletown/gemarah.htm>

#### Codes

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/TalmudMap/Maimonides.html>  
[http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Judaism/shulkhan\\_arukh.html](http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Judaism/shulkhan_arukh.html)  
<http://ddickerson.igc.org/issersles-mappah.html>  
<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/6/6/s6-217-e.html>

#### אחרונים

<http://ohr.edu/judaism/survey/survey6.htm>

Respona

<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/6/6/s6-217-e.html>

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=576&letter=S>

.....

#### Resource list #3 - Selected Bibliography

*Jewish Law: An Introduction* – Mendel Lewittes (Jason Aronson, 1994)

*The Essential Talmud* – Adin Steinsaltz (Basic Books, 1976)

*The Talmud: A Reference Guide* – Adin Steinsaltz (Ransom House, 1989)

# Bringing it Together: A page of גמרא

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