



## ACTIVITY

# Hatikva

### Materials and Equipment Needed

- Video Clips
- Internet connection screening device
- Copy of words to Hatikva

### Time Needed

45 minutes

### Goals

To explore Israel's national anthem Hatikva and to consider the question, "Whose anthem is it?" – an Israeli anthem sung by Israeli citizens of a Sovereign State or the anthem of the Jewish people around the world?

## Before You Get Started

Look at the list of enduring understandings. Which one would you like to emphasize through this activity?

- The relationship between the Land of Israel and the People of Israel is longstanding, going back to ancient times and finding expression in Jewish Biblical and Rabbinic texts.
- In modern times, Israel is the vision and venture of the Jewish People. The Jewish People's central project in modern times is the building of a sovereign Jewish State in the Land of Israel.
- Being an active participant in the Jewish People implies an ongoing relationship with the State of Israel and a concern for the way it conducts its social, ethical and humanistic affairs and its contribution to global Jewry.
- Even if they don't live in Israel, all Jewish People are "owners" of the State of Israel and have a part to play in contributing to, supporting and being in an ongoing relationship with the State.
- Contemporary Israel boasts a diverse and rich culture that is the product of the varied and diverse immigrant Jewish communities who build and contribute to the State of Israel. Encountering Israeli culture, in all its diversity, is an excellent way to encounter the Jewish People in its various manifestations.

## Directions for Activity

1. Ask participants to share which national anthems they are familiar with. Which have they sung? How have they felt when they sang them?
2. Expand the conversation to think about anthems in a more analytical way – what do they think national anthems are meant to do? Who do they think should write or choose an anthem?
3. Now let's turn to Hatikva – ask participants to share when they last sang Hatikva and what feelings were stirred for them? Did they know the words? Did it feel different from singing the American or any other anthem?
4. Share historical background about the writing of Hatikva.
  - Hatikva was written by the Zionist poet Naftali Herz Imber in 1877 sitting in Romania (and was then called "Tikvateinu", "Our Hope") a full 70 years before Israel

was established as a State. The lyrics reflect the position of someone who is standing outside of Israel “looking East” with aspirations toward Israel.

- More information on the creation and choice of Hatikva can be found at [jweekly](#).

5. Share the lyrics of Hatikva with participants or use this translation:

As long as deep in your heart  
The soul of a Jew still stirs  
As long as gazing forward toward the East  
Your eyes still seek Zion  
Then our hope is not yet lost  
To be a free people  
In our land  
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

6. Have the participants reflect on the anthem (either through a writing exercise or by sharing with the person next to them). Which line resonates with them? For Jews living outside of Israel today, what does it mean for their “eyes [to] seek Zion?”

7. Bring the group back together and widen the conversation by posing the following questions:

- Now that there is a sovereign state, should the anthem be considered a symbol mainly for Israeli citizens or for the whole Jewish People? (Interesting to note that both ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israel and Israel’s Arab Citizens don’t consider it their anthem.)
- As Jews living outside Israel, do you see Hatikva as your anthem?
- Do you stand when you sing it and consider that it is speaking for you?
- Share your different positions on the Hatikva as either the Israeli national anthem or the Jewish anthem.

8. View the Clips

- Hatikva with Barbara Streisand in 1978 Stars Salute Israel Event. Cue to: 2:54 through end. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uPHaioopKM>)
- Hatikva with Acapella Group KOLture Shock (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFc3qTowuRk>)
- KOLture Shock performed this version of Hatikva as a part of a Flash Mob on the Tel Aviv light rail produced before the 2015 Israeli Elections.

9. Using the clips as a basis, widen the discussion. Through its visual representation – what story does each version of Hatikva tell? If Hatikva were the anthem of the Jewish People, what images should be reflected? Who would be invited to sing it?
10. Sum up the discussion and ask participants to share a question or idea they are left with.

### Note to Educator

Did the enduring understandings that you set out to teach surface during this activity?

### Resources

- For another Hatikva related activity see Makom Israel
- For historical background on Hatikva check out the iCenter and jweekly.