

Rosh Hashanah

Concepts: new year, birthday of the world, creation

Symbols/Customs: apples and honey, shofar, round challah

Vocabulary: Shana Tovah U'metuka = a good and sweet year (happy new year)
Tapuchim u'd'vash = apples and honey

Props: laminated images of apple and honey, round challah, shofar and world, apple and honey bear shakers, laminated apples, bee finger puppets and laminated bee images, shofar and kazoos, percussion instruments, paint brush props

Tips for Teaching This Unit:

1. We are celebrating a special birthday, the birthday of the world! Sing **Birthday of the World** and Clap Your Hands for the Birthday of the World; age appropriate for 2's & 3's.

Birthday of the World

by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))



Chorus:

It's the birthday, it's the birthday,
It's the birthday of the world today! (repeat)

chorus: clap hands

We think about when the world was made
and all the things we're gonna do today
to make tomorrow a brighter day
as we celebrate the birthday of the world!

world: raise arms to make a circle over head
do: extend hands in front, palms up
brighter: hands in air, finger bursts of light
celebrate: clap hands

Clap Your Hands for the Birthday of the World

to the tune of If You're Happy and You Know It

Clap your hands for the birthday of the world (2x)
It's a happy holiday, clap your hands and shout HOORAY!
Clap your hands for the birthday of the world

2. Explain that we wish one another Shanah Tovah, a good year, on Rosh Hashanah. Sing **Shanananah Tovah** with percussion instruments. This can be used as a welcoming song at a service or song-session with the welcoming verses, or in the classroom with holiday custom verses; age appropriate for preschool. Toddlers and 2's enjoy playing percussion, 3's and 4's enjoy identifying the customs before singing the appropriate verses.

Shanananah Tovah

to the tune of Hal'li'luyah, adapted by Lisa Baydush

Sha-na-na-nah Sha-na-na-na-na-nah,
Sha-na-na-nah, Shanah tovah!
Sha-na-na-nah Sha-na-na-na-na-nah,
Sha-na-na-nah Sha-na-na-nah, Shanah tovah!

Dip an apple in some honey
for a good and sweet new year,
Dip an apple in some honey,
Dip an apple and sa-a-ay, "Shanah Tovah!"

Wave to a friend and share a big smile,
Wave to a friend and say, "Shanah Tovah!"
Wave to a friend and share a big smile,
Wave to a friend and sa-a-ay, "Shanah Tovah!"

Eat a challah, round and yummy...
Blow the shofar – toot toot toot toot...

Give a hug to someone very special...
Clap your hands and welcome in the new year...

- Put five apple shakers on the ground in a line (or one for each student in the class) and sing **Five Little Apples**; age appropriate for 2's.

Five Little Apples

to the tune of Five Little Ducks, adapted by Emily Aronoff

Five little apples from a tree,
Ready to dip in sweet honey
I gave one to ___ for a new year's treat
How many apples are left to eat?
(count down to one, end: No more apples for us to eat!)



- Ask them if they know what we dip our apples into on Rosh Hashanah... HONEY! Hand out honey bear shakers. With older preschoolers, ask if they know what we eat on Rosh Hashanah; hand out apple shakers and honey bear shakers. Now each student has a shaker in each hand. Which one will we shake when we sing APPLE? How about HONEY? Practice, and then sing **Apples and Honeys**; age appropriate for preschool. 2's just shake the shakers and enjoy the different sounds the two shakers make; 3's enjoy the differentiation challenge of shaking a different shaker for each word; 4's enjoy trying it as a call and response or audiation exercise (hearing the words in their heads rather than singing out loud). In school, I only sing the chorus and first verse; in tot services, I add the second verse. If you don't have the props, you can use two different instruments, such as egg shakers and tambourines.

Apples and Honey

by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))

Apples and honey (3x) for a sweet new year! (2x)

Dip an apple in some honey,
Take a bite, it's oh so yummy!
Dip an apple in some honey
For a very, very sweet new year!

The bees make honey that tastes so sweet;
The trees grow apples for us to eat;
Together they make a tasty treat
For a very, very sweet new year!



- Ask students if they know where honey comes from? Introduce Henry the Honey Bee puppet and have him give kisses to their cheeks while singing **I'm a Little Honey Bee**; age appropriate for 2's and 3's. Encourage them to sing the buzzing chorus and to echo me on the second verse. (Note that some children this age are afraid of puppets, so let them know it is okay to decline the puppet kiss.)

Little Honey-Bee

to the tune of Little Piece of Tin, adapted by Lisa Baydush



I'm a little honey-bee,
I hope that you're not scared of me!
I make honey that tastes so sweet
So you can have a Rosh Hashanah treat!

Chorus:

Bzzz Bzzz, Buzz Buzz (2x)

Hello little Honey-Bee,
Thanks for making our honey!
It tastes so sweet, it tastes so fine,
We could eat it all the time! (chorus)

6. Sing **One Little Honeybee** with finger puppets and laminated images on a felt board. I bought these adorable [finger puppets](#) at Oriental Trading. I only give one puppet to each student.

One Little Honeybee

by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))

One little honeybee buzzing by
Buzz buzz buzz buzz in the sky
Busy in the hive making something sweet
Yummy yummy honey for us to eat
2-3-4-5... end: a yummy yummy Rosh Hashanah treat!



7. A fun movement song with apples and honey is the **Rosh Hashanah Macarena**; age appropriate for all preschoolers. Give two laminated apples to each student. Sing increasingly faster and faster until everyone is giggling!

Rosh Hashanah Macarena

Apples, apples in the honey,
Yummy, yummy in my tummy!
Apples, apples in the honey
Yay! It's Rosh Hashanah! Woo!

*hold up each apple and then pretend to dip in honey
rub apples on tummy
hold up each apple and then pretend to dip in honey
jump up in air and clap apples together; shout WOO!*

8. Other sweet songs about apples and honey are **For a Sunny and a Sweet New Year** and **Tapuchim Ud'vash**. I also had a lot of success with **H-O-N-E-Y** with 4's.

For a Sunny and a Sweet New Year

by Bernard (Buzzy) Walters ([audio](#))

I like to dip my apple/challah in some honey,
In some honey on Rosh Hashanah!
Dip my apple/challah in some honey
For a sunny and a sweet new year!



Tapuchim Ud'vash

Traditional Israeli song ([audio](#))

Dip apples in the honey for a sweet new year
Tapuchim ud'vash l'Rosh Hashanah
Shanah to-ovah, shanah u'metukah (2x)
Dip apples in the honey for a sweet new year
Tapuchim ud'vash l'Rosh Hashanah

H-O-N-E-Y

to the tune of BINGO, adapted by Lisa Baydush

On Rosh Hashanah, take an apple, dip it in some honey!
H O N E Y (3x); Oh, wow, it tastes so yummy!

9. Show them a real shofar. Pass it around so everyone can examine it. While it is being passed, teach and sing **Toot Toot**; age appropriate for 2's & 3's.

Toot Toot

by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))

Toot toot toot toot, hear the shofar blow!
Toot toot toot, to the synagogue we go!
Toot toot toot toot, Rosh Hashanah's here,
Toot toot toot, have a happy, sweet new year!

*Form a circle with fingers and hold to mouth
like a shofar; sing toot toot's.*

Play it fast! (Toot-toot-toot-toot-toot-toot!)
Play it slow... (Toot-toot-toot-toot-toot-toot!) (repeat)

*sing fast toots like Tekiyah
sing slow toots like Shevarim*

Play it high! (Toot-toot-toot-toot-toot-toot!)
Play it low... (Toot-toot-toot-toot-toot-toot!) (repeat)

*sing toots in high, fast voice
sing toots in low, slow voice*

10. For 3's and 4's, sing a simplified version of **Toke'a Hashofar** with kazoos. Send kazoos home as a holiday gift. I bought these inexpensive [kazoos](#) at Oriental Trading.

Toke'a Hashofar

by Cindy Paley, simplified verse ([audio](#))

Tu-tu-tu, toke'a hashofar
Shanah tovah, shanah tovah! (repeat)

Tu tu tu tu tu tu tu tu tu tu tu tu...



11. Sing **Shofar Blast**; age appropriate for 4's and older!!!

Shofar Blast

by Ellen Allard ([audio](#))

I like to hear the shofar blast,
Sometimes slow and sometimes fast!
I like to hear the shofar blast,
Happy, happy, happy new year!

*blast: finger bursts in front of you
fast: zoom arm forward*

1. Tekiyah—— (echo) (chorus)
2. Shevari-i-i-i-im—— (echo) (chorus)
3. Tru-ah ha ha ha ha ha ha ha— (echo) (chorus)
4. Tekiyah g'dolah—— (together) (chorus)

*happy hands; same sign as sameach: hands rotate
at wrists in circular motion towards shoulders*

*arm stretches up towards sky
index finger points at sky, arms rotates like lasso
hand dribbles imaginary basketball in front of body
this is the big Tekiyah, one breath (no cheating),
hold note as long as you can with both arms up in air*

12. Explain that on Rosh Hashanah we think about when the world was created, and ask them if they would like to be God's partners in painting a beautiful world? Give out paint brush props and sing **Painting a Beautiful World**. Age appropriate for preschool.

Painting a Beautiful World

by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#)) ([prop](#))

I'm gonna paint a beautiful world,
Do you wanna paint with me?
I'm gonna paint a beautiful world,
C'mon and paint it with me!

Blue paint, blue paint,
Gonna paint a blue, blue sky (repeat)

White paint... lots of fluffy clouds...
Yellow paint... a shining sun...
Green paint... the green, green grass...
Orange paint... an orange orange...
Red paint... an apple on a tree...
Purple paint... pretty purple flowers...
Keshet (2x)... a rainbow in the sky...

We just painted a beautiful world
for everybody to see;
We just painted a beautiful world,
thanks for painting with me!



Midrash:

When the world was created God made everything a little bit incomplete. Rather than making bread grow out of the earth, God made wheat grow so that we might bake it into bread. Rather than making the earth of bricks, God made it out of clay so that we might bake the clay into bricks. Why? So that we might become partners in completing the work of creation.

13. While we're thinking about creation, we can also sing **The Earth is Our Mother** with rhythm sticks; age appropriate for 3's, 4's and Kindergarten.

The Earth is Our Mother ([video](#))

He-ey ya-na; Ho-o ya-na; He-ey ya-na ho (4x)

The sk-y is so beautiful,
We must take care of it! (repeat 4x) (chorus)

The rivers...
The trees...

More Holiday Resources:

- Piggy-back songs for Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur ([song-sheet](#))
- Six Days to Make the World ([iPad prop](#)) ([audio](#))
- Apples and Honey ([video](#))

Props on the next page...

1. What Do We Know About Rosh Hashanah?

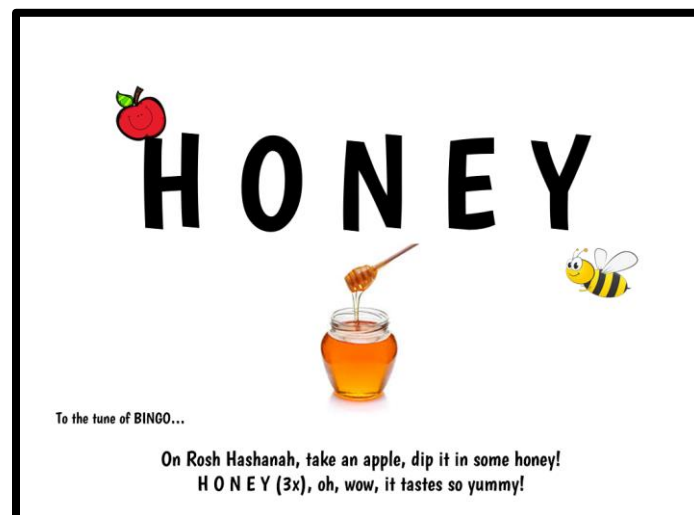
Ask students what they know about Rosh Hashanah... as they answer, put a picture on the board. This makes a nice visual back-drop for this unit. Materials: laminated clip-art, felt board, tiny adhesive Velcro circles. Laminated pictures with Velcro on the back will cling to the felt.



I have included pictures of:

- **the birthday of the world...** Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of a new year; it is considered the birthday of the world. We read the creation story (Bereshit) on this holiday (as well as on Simchat Torah when we roll the Torah back and start reading from the very beginning).
- **apples and honey...** we dip apples (and challah) in honey to wish for a sweet new year.
- **a round challah...** round challahs are unique to the High Holiday season; the circular shape reminds us that the year goes around, and with each cycle, we have the potential for growth and change.
- **a shofar...** the shofar is an instrument made from a ram's horn that makes a trumpet-like sound. It is a mitzvah/commandment to blow the shofar on Rosh Hashanah.

2. **HONEY** (ttto BINGO)... I put this picture prop on my felt board. A teacher covers each letter with a piece of paper with blue-tak (or tape) so that we can sing through the song without pausing. Just like with BINGO, we clap hands for the missing letters.



3. **Six Days to Make the World** by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))

As noted above, we tell the creation story on Rosh Hashanah. Children delight in watching this prop build as the song progresses. Teach the movements for the chorus. Begin with a blank board on an easel.

Chorus:

1-2-3, 4-5-6;

It took six days to make the world (repeat)

*hold up three fingers on each hand while counting
circle hands*

In the beginning, light and dark...

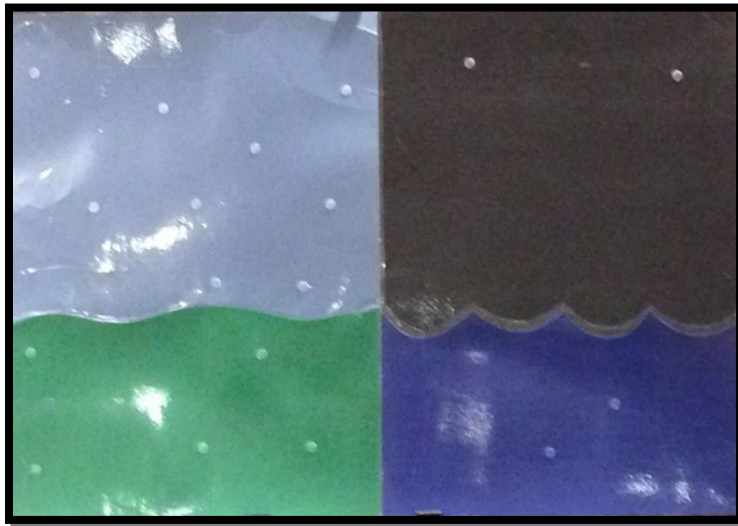
In the beginning, day and night...

light: make finger bursts; dark: cover eyes

day: make finger bursts; night: head on hands

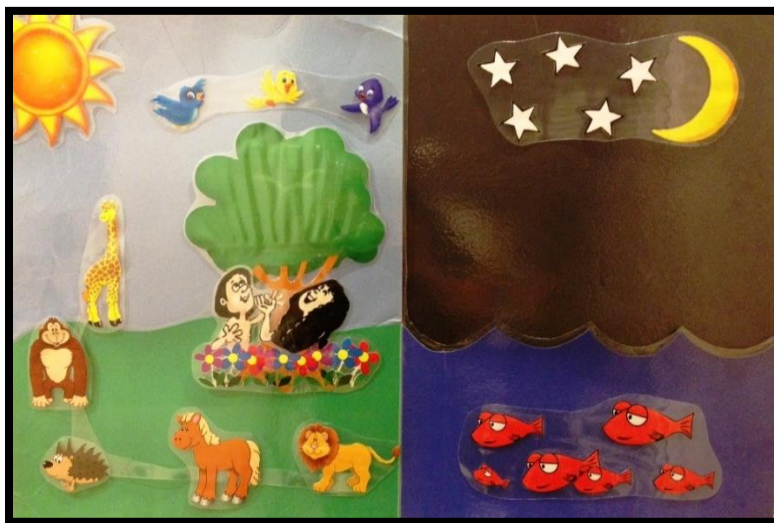
Then came the land, the sky and sea...

*Add a laminated layer depicting the land, sky and sea.
Affix to board with Velcro in the corners.*



Then came the flowers and the trees...
Next came the sun, the moon and stars...
Next came the animals, birds and fish...
Last came the people, Adam and Eve...
Last came the people, you and me...

*add laminated flowers and tree to Velcro dots
add laminated sun, moon and stars to Velcro dots
add laminated animals, birds and fish to Velcro dots
add laminated people to Velcro dots
point to children, then to self*



On the seventh day, God took a rest...
That's why Shabbat is our day of rest...

*rest head on hands
snore, wait for giggles, then 'wake up' and sing chorus*