

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)
Chag Sameach = happy holiday
Tapuchim u'd'vash = apples and honey

Props: laminated apples, bee puppet, shofar, percussion instruments, 'Dip Your Apple' video, paint brush prop (see page 5 for pictures and descriptions), rhythm sticks, HONEY prop

Tips for Teaching This Unit:

1. We are celebrating a special birthday, the birthday of the world! Sing **Birthday of the World** ([audio](#)); age appropriate for 2's & 3's. (This was very successful at my preschool service!)

Birthday of the World

by Lisa Baydush

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*

2. Explain that we wish one another Shanah Tovah, a good year, on Rosh Hashanah. Sing **Shanananah Tovah**; age appropriate for preschool and grades K-2. (This was a big hit!)

Shanananah Tovah

by Chris Vaughn, adapted

Chorus:

Sha-na-na na-na-na-na na-na-nah,
Shanah tovah! (sing 4x)

*Dance or roll arms to chorus;
Thumbs up for tovah*

The old year is ending,
the new one's just begun;
We blow the shofar
and say, **Shanah Tovah!** (chorus)

*On each verse, children jump to their feet
as they call out, Shanah Tovah!*

We think about the old year,
and look forward to the new!
RH: We dip apples in honey
YK: We hug our friends and family
and say, **Shanah Tovah!** (chorus)

Use alternative lyrics for Yom Kippur

We celebrate together
with friends and family;
We wish everyone a good year
and say, **Shanah Tovah!** (chorus)

3. Another Shanananah Tovah song is to the tune of Hal'l'l'luyah, which is a staple at my Shabbat Sings; age appropriate for all preschool students. 2's students enjoyed this opportunity to play percussion instruments.

Shanah Tovah

to the tune of Hal'l'l'luyah

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!

Shake the hands of the friends next to you,
Shake their hands and say: Shanah Tovah!
Shake the hands of the friends next to you,
Shake their hands and sa-a-ay: Shanah Tovah!

Wave to a friend and share a big smile...
Give a hug to your friends and family...
Clap your hands and welcome in the new year...

4. Ask them to share what they know about Rosh Hashanah. What special things do we do or eat on Rosh Hashanah? (Dip apples in honey and blow the shofar.) Show them a real shofar. Pass it around so everyone can examine it. While it is being passed, teach and sing **Toot Toot** ([audio](#)); age appropriate for 2's and 3's.

Toot Toot

by Lisa Baydush

Chorus:

Toot toot toot toot, hear the shofar blow!
Toot toot toot, to the JCC/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)
(chorus)

*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)
(chorus)

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

5. Sing the FAVORITE of favorites for students of ALL ages... **Shofar Blast** ([audio](#)).

Shofar Blast

by Ellen Allard

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*

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

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)

*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*

6. 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**. Encourage them to sing the buzzing chorus and to echo me on the second verse. Age appropriate for 2's and 3's. (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)

7. Sing a song about apples and honey, such as my new song, **Apples and Honey**. Do a mash-up of songs with **For a Sunny and a Sweet New Year** and **Tapuchim Ud'vash** to change it up a little. I also had a lot of success with **H-O-N-E-Y!** First two songs are age appropriate for 2's and 3's; the last two are better for 4's and Kindergarten.

Apples and Honey [\(audio\)](#)

by Lisa Baydush

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

pat legs, then clap hands on the word '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!

*make bee sounds and movement with finger
stretch arms up like a tree
rub tummy
pat legs, and clap on the word 'year'*

For a Sunny and a Sweet New Year by Bernard Walters

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

Dip apples in the honey for a sweet new year (2x)
A good new year, a sweet new year (2x)
Dip apples in the honey for a sweet new year

Tapuchim ud'vash I'Rosh Hashanah (2x)
Shana to-ova, shana u'metuka (2x)
Tapuchim ud'vash I'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!

8. Hand out two laminated apples to each student. Have all children stand up and teach them the **Rosh Hashanah Macarena**. Sing it several times, progressively getting faster. Also fun to do in slow motion and then in super-fast speed, as well as silently. This is VERY popular with ALL preschoolers and kindergarteners!

Rosh Hashanah Macarena

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

*sequentially hold up and then dip each apple
rub apples on tummy
sequentially hold up and then dip each apple
Yay: arms up over head
Woo: jump and clap apples together*

9. Sing **Chag Sameach** with percussion instruments, rhythm sticks and/or sign language. Age appropriate for all preschoolers, as well as grades K-3, depending on how you do it. Teach the meaning of the Hebrew: happy holiday. Practice making the chet sound and note that we don't have that sound in English. Use percussion instruments with the youngest students, and use rhythm sticks for 4's: for chag sameach, pat both sticks on floor; for lai lai's, tap sticks together in the air; for shiru's, alternate sticks on floor. Sign language is great for 4's and K-3rd students.

Chag Sameach

Chag sameach, chag sameach
Lai— lai lai lai— lai lai lai— (repeat)

Shiru shiru shiru shiru chag sameach
Lai— lai lai lai— lai lai lai— (repeat)

Sign language:

Chag (holiday)=open hands, palms facing one another, thumbs pointing at bra straps, fingers splayed

Sameach (happy)=rotate wrists so palms are facing you and then circle hands towards shoulders 3 times

Lai=make an 'L' with right hand with index finger and thumb extended, and dance hand in front of you

Shiru (sing)=extend right arm, palm facing up; with left hand, sweep back and forth above forearm

10. Show the YouTube video, **Dip Your Apple** ([video](#)), a Rosh Hashanah musical parody by The Ein Prat Fountainheads. Age appropriate for 3's and 4's and grades K-3. Teach the chorus with movements.

Dip Your Apple

by the Ein Prat Fountainheads to the tune of Waka Waka by Shakira

Shananana tova
Um'e um'e tu-u-ka
Dip your apple in the honey
It's Rosh Hashanah! (repeat)

*rolling hands right and left
rolling hands right and left
dipping motion, fingers pointing downward
hands pointing upward*

11. Sing **Tongo-RH**, an adaptation of Billy Jonas' Tongo ([audio](#)). Age appropriate for 4's and grades K-3. Fun with body percussion (rhythmic patting on legs). Children echo pattern when they echo lyrics: for Shanah tovah, pat legs; for chag sameach, pat legs; for chaverim, clap three times; for shananananah tovah, rhythmic pattern on knees.

Tongo-RH!

adapted by Lisa Baydush to the tune of Tongo by Billy Jonas

Shana tovah! (echo) Chag sameach, chaverim (echo) Shana tovah (echo)
Sha-na-na-na-na-na Tovah! (echo) Shana Tova-a-ah! (echo))
Chag sameach, chaverim (echo)

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** ([audio](#)) ([prop](#)). Age appropriate for preschool.

Painting a Beautiful World

by Lisa Baydush

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...

Recommended Songs:

1. Apples and Honey (Baydush)
2. Birthday of the World (Baydush)
3. Chag Sameach (traditional)
4. Dip Your Apple (Ein Prat Fountainheads)
5. The Earth is Our Mother
6. For a Sunny and Sweet New Year (Walters)
7. H-O-N-E-Y (ttto BINGO)
8. Little Honey Bee (ttto Little Piece of Tin)
9. Painting a Beautiful World
10. Rosh Hashanah Macarena
11. Shanananah Tovah (Vaughn)
12. Shanah Tovah (ttto Hal'l'l'luyah)
13. Shofar Blast (Allard)
14. Tongo-RH (Jonas)
15. Toot Toot (Baydush)
16. Tapuchim Ud'vash (Apples Dipped in Honey)

More Songs:

17. Happy Happy Happy Rosh Hashanah (Waldman)
18. It's Rosh Hashanah (Baydush)
19. L'shana Tovah (Allard)
20. Two Little Apples (ttto Six Little Ducks)
21. Apple Seed (ttto Itsy Bitsy Spider)

More Holiday Resources:

- Piggy-back songs for Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur ([song-sheet](#))
- Six Days to Make the World ([iPad prop](#)) ([audio](#))
- Seven Days (Allard) ([PowerPoint video prop](#))
- Chag Sameach (Baydush) ([prop](#))([audio](#))
- Apples Dipped in Honey ([video](#))
- Chords to many songs in workshop materials from NewCAJE (<http://lisabaydush.com/Curriculum.htm>)

Props on the next page...

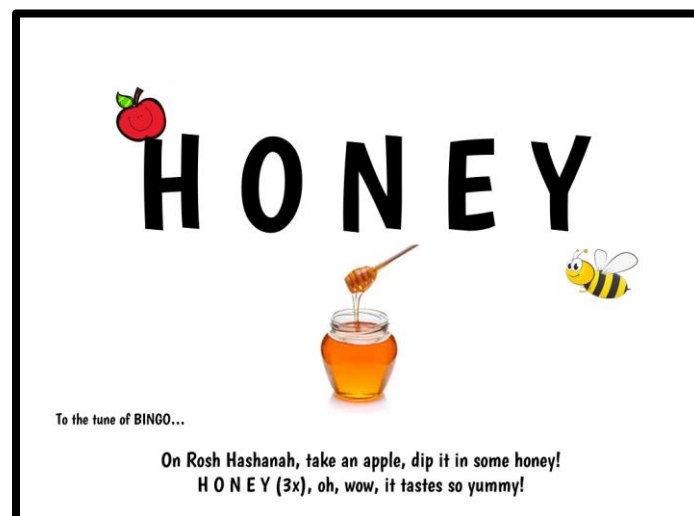
1. What Do We Know About Rosh Hashanah?

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, foam-core board, tiny adhesive Velcro circles or tape. Alternative – make a felt board by gluing felt to the back of a large picture frame, the kind with a stand. 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

As noted above, we tell the creation story on Rosh Hashanah. Children delight in watching this prop build as the song (by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))) 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...

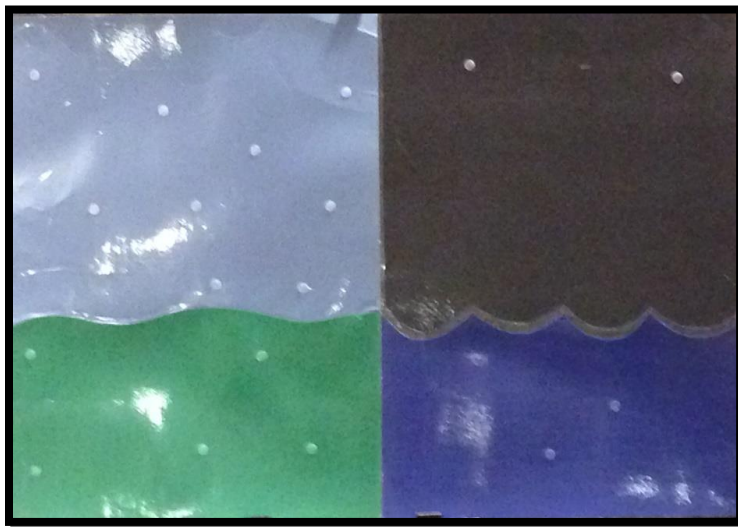
light: make finger bursts; dark: cover eyes

In the beginning, day and night...

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*