

A Sense of Jewish Symbols 24/7



for the Early Childhood & Primary School Classroom
 A weekly idea from SAJES Dept. of Early Childhood Education
 Week of February 3 -8, 2008/ 27 Shevat - 2 Adar I 5768

Jewish Symbols -24/7

Star or Shield of David

The Shield or Star of David or Magen David in Hebrew, is a generally recognized symbol of Jewish Community and Judaism. It is named after King David of Biblical Israel, and its usage began in the middle ages. Geometrically it is the shape of a hexagram. The earliest archaeological evidence for the Jewish use of the symbol of the Shield of David comes from an inscription in late 7th century BCE found in Sidon. It is also thought that during the Bar Kochba rebellion (first century), a new technology was developed for shields using the inherent stability of the triangle. Behind the shield were two interlocking triangles, forming a hexagonal pattern of support points. It appears on synagogues, tombstones, and the flag of Israel. An ancient sign not much used by Jews before the Middle Ages, Kabbalists popularized it for protection against evil spirits. The Jewish community of Prague adopted it as an official symbol and its use became widespread in the 17th century. Though it has neither biblical nor Talmudic authority, it became a nearly universal emblem of Judaism in the 19th century.

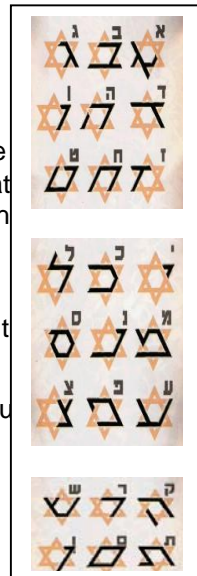
Magen Dovid Adom (MDA) (*Red Star of David* or, translated literally, *Red Shield of David*) is Israel's only official emergency medical, disaster ambulance service. It is an official member of the International committee of the Red Cross. When the Magen Dovid Adom organization was finally admitted into the world Red Cross body in 2006, it was agreed that the inner part of the star, a diamond shape, would become Israel's new health symbol, and is now referred as either the Red Diamond or Red Crystal.

This is the link to a blogspot dedicated to Magen Dovid! There are some lovely, funny and interesting pictures!

[Star of David: 12/01/2006 - 01/01/2007](#)

Multi-Intelligence Integration Ideas

- ✧ By highlighting lines of the Magen Dovid, you can spell out every letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Although not every child knows the Hebrew alphabet, this is still a fun way to introduce it and let the students discover the letters through matching.
- ✧ Using the Magen Dovid is wonderful way to talk about shapes. Can one square become the two triangles of the star? Can a rectangle be made into triangles and then stars? What will a Star of David look like if different kinds of triangles are put together to make it? Can the children draw a Magen Dovid in a circle?
- ✧ It is a tradition for some to use the shape of a Magen Dovid for their Seder plate at Pesach. One item (Maror, Charoset, Bazah, Zaroah, Carpas, Hazeret) is put on each point. This might be a new idea for your Pesach preparations this year!
- ✧ Although the shape might have been changed; the Magen Dovid Adom is still a wonderful way for students to learn about Israel and community helpers in Israel. Firefighters and policemen – what are the symbols that they use in Israel?



HEBREW VOCABULARY

אות(אותיות) /OAT (O-TI-OT) /LETTER (S)

משולש / ME-SHU-LAH / TRIANGLE

*The Symbol: the outward expression of the inward signification-
 should above all charm the senses by and for itself. Heine*

For further information:

Susan Remick Topek - Director, SAJES Early Childhood & Library Services
 777 Larkfield Road / Commack, NY 11725 / 631-462-8600
 srtopek@sajes.org/ www.sajes.org