

Grade

Asara

6



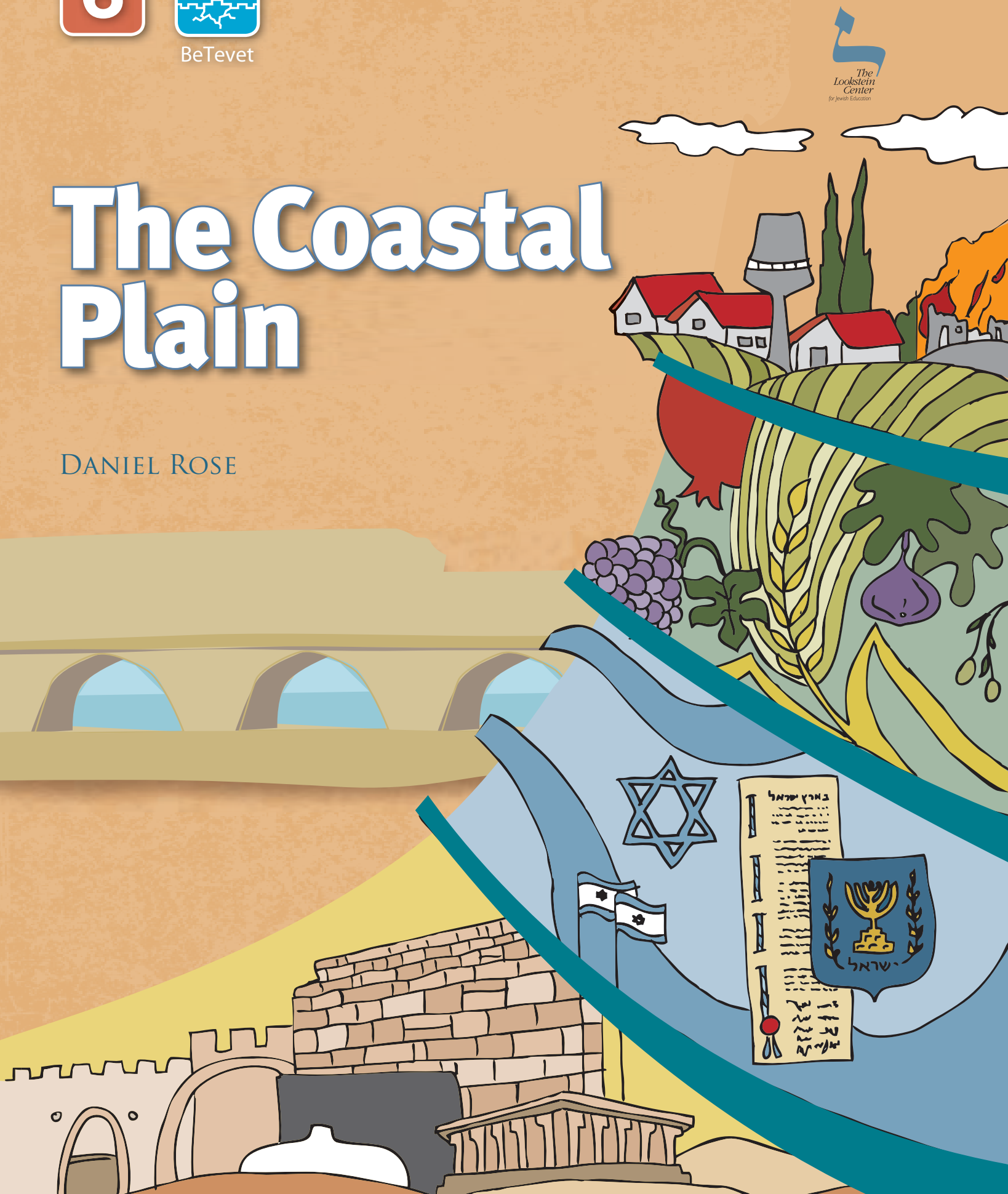
BeTevet


ERETZ YISRAEL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

The  
Lookstein  
Center  
for Jewish Education


# The Coastal Plain

DANIEL ROSE





THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE  
THROUGH THE VISION AND GENEROSITY OF  
**EVELYN AND DR. SHMUEL KATZ** OF BAL HARBOUR, FLORIDA  
AND REFLECTS THEIR GREAT LOVE AND COMMITMENT  
TO JEWISH EDUCATION AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL  
AND WAS LOVINGLY DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF  
JACOB DOV KATZ Z”L  
AND SARAH ROHR A”H



..ERETZ YISRAEL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR..

ASARA BETEVET

# THE COASTAL PLAIN MISHOR HACHOF

GRADE 6

DANIEL ROSE



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Yigal Morag (pages 30 [bottom], 31 [top])



## The Coastal Plain Mishor HaChof

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This booklet is filled with lots of interesting information.  
If you only have time to study certain sections in class,  
we invite you to look at the others in your free time.



# INTRODUCTION

## Dear Student,

The State of Israel needs your help.

The government of Israel has decided to award the tourism ministry with a large budget this year to increase tourism from all over the world. One of the most popular regions in Israel for tourists is the coastal plain, the *Mishor HaChof*. For the most part it is a low and flat area of land that borders the Mediterranean Sea.

Here is your chance to help Israel get the word out on just how exciting this region is. We need help producing an advertising campaign, including television and radio commercials, billboard advertising, and literature to make Israel's coastal plain an appealing vacation destination. Your teacher has told us that you are particularly creative and love Israel. These are just the qualities we are looking for. Do you think you can help?

In the next four lessons we will give you information about:

- The geographic and historical importance of the coastal plain from ancient times until today
- The famous ancient cities of the coastal plain: Ashkelon, Ashdod, Jaffa, Caesarea and Akko (Acre)
- Israel's bustling modern cities located on the coast, including Nahariya, Haifa, Netanya and Herzliya
- Some of the rural settlements

# LESSON 1



## THE COASTAL PLAIN

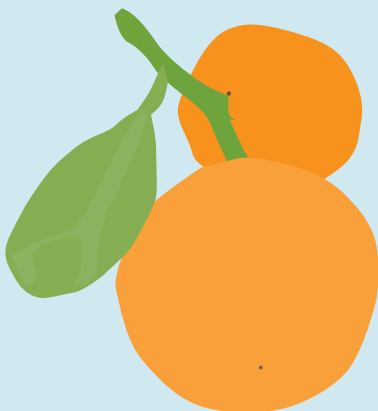
In order to prepare the advertising campaign, we will learn about:

- The natural features and layout of Israel's coastal plain
- Why a large percentage of Israel's population lives there
- Why the ancient powers struggled for control over this area
- Why the modern powers are so concerned about this region

### Some Facts and Figures

Israel's coastal plain stretches for 116 miles from Rosh HaNikra on the northern border, to the Gaza Strip in the south. The plain has golden, sandy beaches along its entire length, and includes more than 10 major cities and many smaller towns and villages. More than 70% of Israel's population lives

along this coast. We will soon find out why.



There are two types of soil on the coastal plain. One is dark and heavy, which is ideal for growing crops such as wheat, barley and vegetables. The other type of soil is thin and sandy. It is excellent soil for growing citrus fruits. This has allowed Israel's world renowned citrus fruits (Jaffa oranges) to blossom as a major industry along the coastal plain.



## Activity 1

Look at the places on the map. Some of them are actually located on the seafront. Others are further inland but are still considered part of the coastal plain.

Which of these cities do you recognize and think are major cities?

We will be looking at some of these cities and villages over the next four lessons.

## Did You Know?

The name "Mediterranean" comes from Latin and means "in the middle." This is because the Mediterranean Sea is between Europe, Asia and Africa.

In Hebrew the Mediterranean Sea is called הים התיכון – *HaYam HaTichon*. תיכון means "middle."

High school is called תיכון because it is between elementary school and university.

Why do so many people live in this area?

The process of urbanization – the movement from agricultural areas to larger cities – exists in all western developed countries. The coastal plain, especially the greater Tel Aviv area, is Israel's economic and cultural center. This explains why such a large percentage of Israel's population lives on the coastal plain.

### Geopolitical Importance of the Region in Ancient Times



Geopolitics is when the geographical location of a country influences its importance in the world. For example, because of Israel's location-particularly the coastal plain - it has always had tremendous importance for the powerful nations of the world. How does this illustration highlight the importance of Israel's location to the ancient world powers?

Different empires existed and competed throughout the ages. In their quests for world domination, wealth and power, each empire needed to conquer the Land of Israel in order to dominate the empire in the adjoining continent.



Not only did the Land of Israel, which was at the center of three continents, act as a buffer between all the ancient powers, Israel's coastline was a vital ancient trade route between the continents. Why do you think that controlling the coastal plain was of critical importance to the powers of the ancient world?

As far back as the Egyptian empire that enslaved the Jewish people, the coastal plain of Israel was of crucial economic importance. Egypt used this coast as its main trade route to Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq).

This trade route is known by its Latin name, the *Via Maris*, which means, "Way of the Sea," or the "Coastal Road."

Today, the State of Israel's modern coastal highway is largely built on the same route as this ancient trade route.



### What Do You Think?

Take a look at the map that shows the *Via Maris* and another ancient trade route known as "The King's Highway."

Why do you think the ancient Egyptians chose the *Via Maris* rather than the *Kings Highway* to get their goods to Mesopotamia in the north?

The terrain of the *Via Maris* was easier to navigate - it was flat rather than mountainous, the climate was easier for travel rather than that of the desert, and there were other cities and ports on this route that allowed merchants to rest and do other business on the way. Importantly, it also has many sources of water that served the needs of the travelers.



## Activity 2

The *Via Maris*, the Coastal Road, appears in the Torah but under a different name. Look up *Shmot* 13:17-18.

- a) What does the Torah call this road?
- b) What other road is mentioned in these *pesukim*?
- c) What words indicate that the Coastal Road is the quickest route from Egypt to Israel?

## Geopolitical Importance of the Region in Modern Times

Things haven't changed much. The Land of Israel was considered prime real estate by the world's modern powers including Britain and France, at the beginning of the twentieth century. France had power and influence in the countries to the north of the Land of Israel; Britain needed to have influence in

Palestine and Egypt. This is one reason why they conquered the Land of Israel from the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire in 1917, and ruled it until the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.



Why did Britain want to control Palestine? Before we answer this question, the following activity will help us to understand the most efficient and profitable methods countries use to trade.



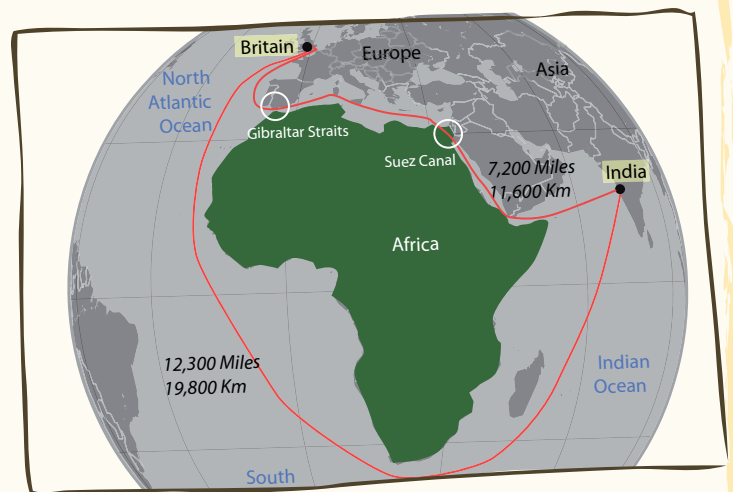
### Activity 3

List five items you use on a regular basis that were manufactured in countries other than your own.

Imagine you manage a car rental company. You have six months to replace your entire fleet of 100 Japanese cars. How would you best bring the cars from Japan to your company?

If you said, "by ship," you would be correct. Most goods are transported across the world via ships.

Britain's main trading partner was India and the surrounding territories. There are two possible routes to travel by ship from Britain to India. One is by travelling all the way around the African continent. It is approximately 12,300 miles. It is a very long route. It would take much more time and would be far more expensive than the second route.



The second route, which is only 7,200 miles, is to travel through the Straits of Gibraltar and the Suez Canal. The British Empire already controlled those two pathways and other crucial territories along this route. In order for Britain to be sure that no competing nation could threaten its control of the Suez Canal, it needed to control Palestine.

Once again, we see how the Land of Israel was crucial to the needs of the major world powers.

Even today, Israel, as a **democracy**, remains a major strategic ally to the western powers, such as the United States and Western Europe. Why do you think that is the case? Use the map to help answer the question.



In this lesson we identified Israel's coastal plain. We saw many of the cities and settlements that exist in this region and we understood the strategic importance of Israel and the coastal plain for both the modern and ancient world.

In the next lesson we will explore some of the ancient cities that are located on Israel's coast.

# LESSON 2



## THE ANCIENT COASTAL CITIES

Now we are going to become better acquainted with the wonderful places found along Israel's coastal plain.

We will begin with some of the ancient cities that still exist and are flourishing today. They are Ashkelon, Ashdod, Jaffa, Caesarea and Akko (Acre).

Our aims for this lesson are to:

- Explore the ancient cities still found today on Israel's coast
- Understand the importance of these cities to the region and to Jewish history
- Explore and get a feel for these cities as they exist today

Let's begin in the south, with the ancient and modern cities of Ashkelon and Ashdod.

Your teacher will divide you into two groups. Group *Aleph* will learn about Ashkelon and Group *Bet* will learn about Ashdod.



*Ashkelon*

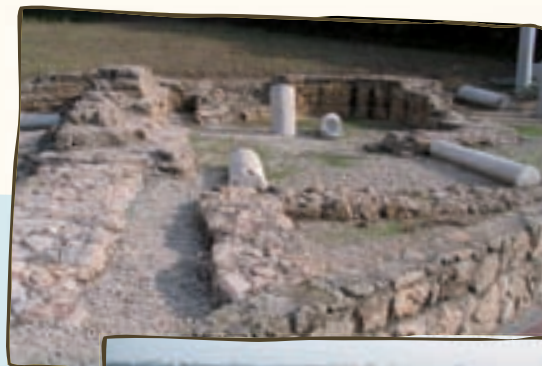


*Ashdod*

## Group Aleph: Ashkelon

### History

Ashkelon is a modern bustling city. Like many other places in Israel, it was built on the original site of past civilizations. Ashkelon was one of five Philistine cities that pre-dated the biblical period, the time when the Israelites lived in Eretz Yisrael.



### Activity 1

Find out the names of the other four Philistine cities. Look in *Yehoshua* 13:3.

The Philistines originally came from the island of Crete and invaded Eretz Yisrael around the time of Avraham. They settled along the coast, and Ashkelon was their largest seaport.

When Yehoshua conquered Eretz Yisrael, the Philistines and Israelites fought lengthy wars. They were bitter enemies for hundreds of years. One of the most exciting moments in the *Tanach* takes place in Ashkelon. There, the mighty Shimshon raids the city and kills thirty Philistine men (*Shoftim* 14:19). However, the city remained in Philistine hands. Even later when King David defeated the Philistines, he was not able to dislodge them from Ashkelon. Eventually the Philistines were defeated in Ashkelon and disappeared forever.

Throughout history (like we see in much of Eretz Yisrael), Ashkelon was captured by other peoples, such as the Assyrians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Christians and the Muslims. During the War of Independence in 1948, the Arab inhabitants of Ashkelon fled and abandoned the city, leaving it in Israeli hands.



## Ashkelon Today

Today Ashkelon (which is built near the site of the ancient city) is a vibrant seaside town with a population of 111,000. It has a pleasant climate for most of the year. Therefore, Ashkelon has become a popular tourist destination for Israelis enjoying beautiful sandy beaches and water sports. It also boasts a Marina for boating and large stretches of parks. Additionally, it hosts a major music festival every summer.



It has one of the largest archeological sites in Israel. Ashkelon has a thriving industrial sector. It is the northernmost point of an Israeli oil pipeline that transports oil from Eilat. From Ashkelon the oil is transported to other countries.



*Ancient Greek stone coffin discovered in Ashkelon*

Ashkelon is also home to the world's largest water desalination plant. It turns over 330,000 cubic meters of raw sea water into clean drinkable water. This constitutes approximately 13% of Israel's domestic needs.



The emblem of the City of Ashkelon expresses the vision of its founders: A modern city which combines tourism and industry. In the emblem there are five stars representing the five neighborhoods of the city, a marble column signifying Ashkelon's ancient past, a gearwheel symbolizing the industrial plants of the city and the waves denoting its magnificent beaches.

## Group Bet: Ashdod

### History

Ashdod was one of the five major Philistine cities.



*A Philistine warship*

### Activity 1

Find out the names of the other four Philistine cities. Look in *Yehoshua* 13:3.

One of the most exciting biblical stories about Ashdod takes place when the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant from the Israelites. They placed the Ark next to an image of their god, Dagon, in their temple in Ashdod. The next morning Dagon was found fallen on its face, right in front of the Ark. They returned the idol to its standing position but the next morning it was again found bowing and broken. The people of Ashdod were smitten with plagues and illness until they agreed to return the Ark to the Israelites (1 Shmuel 6:1-8).



The Philistine influence continued in the area for many generations, until they were wiped out.

### Modern Times

A very significant battle took place in the area of Ashdod during the War of Independence in May 1948. A large force of Egyptian soldiers was



*Ad Halom Bridge*



marching northwards towards Tel Aviv. A small Israeli unit succeeded in blowing up the bridge in the enemy's path, halting their advance. This bridge was later rebuilt and renamed *Ad Halom* ("No Further"), meaning that this was the furthest north that the Egyptians advanced, and "no further".

Subsequently, the Israeli army successfully attacked the Egyptian forces and drove them back. The local Arab inhabitants of Ashdod joined the Egyptians in their retreat, abandoning their homes.

The first new settlers who moved to Ashdod were twenty families who had emigrated from Morocco and a group of immigrants from Egypt. Ashdod's population has grown rapidly from 200 in 1957 to 84,500 in 1993, and experienced a population explosion during the 1990's with the mass immigration from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia. From 1990 to 2001 the city absorbed more than 100,000 new inhabitants, a 150% growth. The story of Ashdod's immigrant populations reflects the story of the waves of *aliyah* throughout Israel's history.

### Ashdod Today

The modern Israeli city of Ashdod is four miles north of the mound (Tel) covering the ancient city of Ashdod.

Today, Ashdod is Israel's fifth largest city, with a population of 210,000. It is an important regional industrial center, containing Israel's largest port receiving over 60% of Israel's imports. The port was originally established to relieve the pressure on the Haifa port and to make it easier to import and export goods to and from the south of the country. The opening of the Ashdod port led to the closing of the small and outdated Tel Aviv port.

Ashdod is a carefully planned city which has allowed its infrastructure to



*A new train being unloaded at the Ashdod port*

steadily develop despite rapid population growth. Other industries found in Ashdod's industrial zones and the port area include various shipping companies, the Eshkol power station, a coal terminal to transport coal, an oil refinery, a Teva Pharmaceutical Industries plant, and Elta, a part of Israel Aircraft Industries where radar equipment and electronic warfare systems are developed.

### **Did You Know?**

In the 2008 local elections, Yehiel Lasri was elected mayor of Ashdod. He was one of the early settlers of Ashdod, and represents the Israeli immigrant "rags to riches" success story. Having made *aliyah* with his family from Morocco in 1963 at the age of 6, he lost his father when he was still a child and grew up with an illiterate mother who washed floors in order to support her five children. He completed his medical studies at Ben-Gurion University in the Negev in 1982, and became a lieutenant colonel in the army, serving as surgeon-general of the navy. He later became a member of Israel's Knesset and deputy mayor of Ashdod, before becoming its mayor.



This emblem represents the ancient and the new of Ashdod. The head of a lion symbolizes the tribe of Judah in whose territory Ashdod was located. Underneath the lion's head is the form of an ancient ship from the biblical era. The anchor stands for the modern-day port of Ashdod. The body language of the lion conveys dynamism and conviction - the forces which built and established modern Ashdod after the founding of the State of Israel.

# Jaffa

## History

Jaffa is believed to be the world's oldest port. In fact, it is mentioned in the *Tanach* as the port used by King Solomon to import the wood from the majestic cedar trees that grew in Lebanon. The wood was put onto rafts and floated down the coast. At Jaffa, they were brought inland and transported to Jerusalem for the construction of the *Beit Hamikdash*.

It is also mentioned as the port from which the prophet Jonah boarded a ship to escape from God's command to preach to the people of Ninveh. Some people claim that the name Jaffa comes from one of Noah's sons, Japhet, who built the city.

As we saw in the previous lesson, Israel's coastline is mostly flat. Jaffa, however, is an exception. It sits on top of a 40 foot hill facing the sea. It, therefore, provides a commanding view of the coastline, and consequently has always been of great strategic importance. This explains why it was attacked and conquered frequently throughout history.

## Modern Times

At the end of the nineteenth century the early Jewish pioneers began streaming to Palestine to build the foundations of the future Jewish State.

At that time, sea travel was the only option to reach Palestine from Europe, and Jaffa was the port of destination. Because of the treacherous rocks on the coast where Jaffa is built, ships would anchor off the coast and passengers (and freight) would be loaded into small boats and rowed ashore. These



*A statue in Jaffa representing the story of Jonah*





trips were dangerous and extremely uncomfortable. A famous rabbi, Avraham Kook, arrived at Jaffa in this manner. He was greeted by hundreds of people. The Turkish government sent special horsemen - an honor guard - to ride before the rabbi's coach escorting him and his family to their new home. He became the city's rabbi and eventually the first Chief Rabbi of Eretz Yisrael.

At this time Jaffa became a city where Jews, Muslims, and Christians lived side by side. However, as more and more Jewish immigrants settled in Jaffa, conditions became unbearably overcrowded, leading to disease and crime. In 1909, 66 Jewish families left the city to build a garden suburb on the sand dunes just north of Jaffa. At first they called their new town Ahuzat Bayit, but it later became known as Tel Aviv, the first modern Hebrew city.

Today, Tel Aviv has grown and dwarfed Jaffa. Tel Aviv is no longer a suburb of Jaffa; Jaffa is now a suburb of Tel Aviv! Out of respect for Jaffa's ancient and rich history, Tel Aviv's official name is Tel Aviv-Jaffa.



*A view of Tel Aviv from old Jaffa*

## Jaffa Today

While today Jaffa no longer functions as a port, it is a highly popular tourist destination, with old restored buildings, art galleries, theatres, souvenir shops, restaurants, sidewalk cafes and promenades. Due to various gentrification projects, Jaffa has become prized real estate as the older neighborhoods are renovated, proving popular with young Tel Avivians who are attracted by Jaffa's unique character. Still today, Jews, Christians and Muslims live side by side in Jaffa. Of the 54,000 people who currently live in Jaffa,



40,000 are Jews (74%) and 14,000 (26%) are Christian and Muslim Israeli Arabs.

## Activity 2

Draw/paint a historical postcard of the city of Jaffa. Choose one of the scenes below for the front of your postcard:

1. Jonah on the ship off the coastline of Jaffa, with the large fish waiting for him further out at sea.
2. Early Zionist pioneers arriving off the boat from Europe to Eretz Yisrael via the port of Jaffa.

Jaffa is part of the larger Tel Aviv-Yafo municipality. The seven stars in the Tel Aviv-Yafo emblem symbolize Herzl's vision of a seven-hour workday. The lighthouse symbolizes the port which represented a safe refuge for thousands of new immigrants. Below the picture are the Hebrew words from Jeremiah

31:3: "I will build you and you will be built." The castle-like form at the top of the emblem indicates the wall surrounding the old city of Jaffa.



# Caesarea

## History

Though Caesarea is not as old as Ashdod, Ashkelon, Jaffa and Akko, which are all mentioned in the Tanach, it is still another ancient city, dating back to the Second Temple era.

Herod, a king of Judea at the time of the Romans, built and beautified the city. He named it Caesarea in honor of the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus.



Herod built a deep sea harbor to allow large ships to anchor, an aqueduct to supply the city with water, a hippodrome for horse racing, and a magnificent theatre, which remains standing today, for other entertainment. Herod also built storerooms, markets, wide roads, baths, temples to Rome and Augustus, and other impressive public buildings.



Caesarea became the grandest city in Eretz Yisrael, after Jerusalem.

Every five years the city hosted major sports competitions, gladiator games, and theatrical productions in its theatre overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. The population of Caesarea



was half gentile and half Jewish, often causing disputes among the people. By 1170, after many invasions and conquests by foreign nations and peoples, only twenty Jews remained. In 1265, Caesarea was destroyed, and the city remained in ruins until 1884.



## Did You Know?

During the Bar Kochba revolt against the Romans in 135 CE, some of the Ten Martyrs, including Rabbi Akiva, were tortured and executed in Caesarea.

### Modern Times

Baron Edmund de Rothschild, a wealthy European Jew, bought land throughout Eretz Yisrael towards the end of the 19th century. He entrusted the area to the first Jewish settlers of the modern era. A small kibbutz called Sdot Yam was founded one mile south of Caesarea, on that land.

With the establishment of the State of Israel, the Rothschild family donated most of their vast land holdings to the new state. However, a different arrangement was reached regarding the 35,000 dunams of land the family owned in and around modern Caesarea.

After turning over the land, it was leased to a charitable foundation. In his will, Edmond de Rothschild stipulated that this foundation would further education, arts and culture, and welfare in Israel. Consequently, Caesarea is the only Israeli locality managed by a private organization rather than a public municipality.

### From Rabbi Akiva to Hanna Senesh

Rabbi Akiva was an ancient Jewish hero, but a modern Jewish heroine also had strong ties to Caesarea. Hanna Senesh was born in Hungary and immigrated to Palestine at the age of 13 without her family. She was one of the original members of Kibbutz Sdot Yam right next to Caesarea. She was so inspired by





Caesarea that she wrote a poem about it.

### A Stroll in Caesarea

My God, My God  
May these things never end  
The sand and the sea  
The rustle of the water  
The lightning in the sky  
Man's prayer.

### הליכה לקיסריה

אלי אלי  
שלא יגמר לעולם  
החול והים  
רשרוש של המים  
ברק השמיים  
תפילת האדם

What emotion does she express in this poem?

In 1943, as the Second World War raged in Europe, Senesh decided to join the British Army's Jewish Brigade in order to help her fellow Jews. The Jewish Brigade consisted of Jews from many countries who volunteered in order to fight the Nazis. It included 30,000

Jews from Palestine. Some of the Jewish Brigade members subsequently became key soldiers of the new State of Israel's Defense Forces.



*Members of the Jewish Brigade*



*Hannah Senesh with her brother a day before she left on her mission*

In the British Army, Senesh trained as a parachutist – the first woman to do so. She volunteered for a mission to parachute behind enemy lines into Nazi-Occupied Europe. Her mission was to make contact with resistance fighters in order to help save the Jewish communities. Just before she crossed the border into Hungary, she wrote another poem:

## Blessed is the Match

*Blessed is the match, consumed in kindling flame.*

*Blessed is the flame that burns in the heart's secret places.*

*Blessed is the heart that knows, for honors sake, to stop its beating.*

*Blessed is the match, consumed in kindling flame.*

What emotion does Hannah Senesh express in this poem? Both of the above poems were made into songs.

On June 7, 1944, at the height of the Nazi deportation of Hungarian Jews to the death camps, Senesh infiltrated Hungary. She was caught, and although tortured repeatedly over a period of months, she refused to give any information about her contacts in the resistance. The Nazis even threatened to kill her mother, but she would not reveal anything. On November 7, 1944, Hannah Senesh was executed by a firing squad. She refused to wear a blindfold and stared squarely at her executors and her fate. She was 23 years old.



*Israeli children remembering Hannah Senesh at her gravesite*



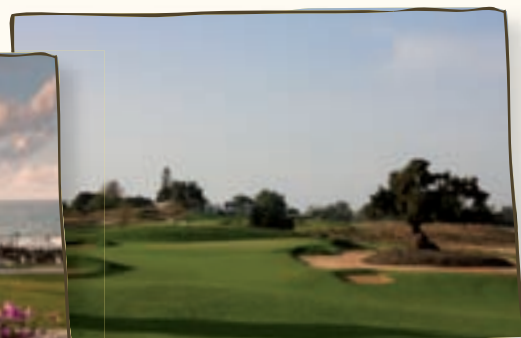
If you would like to learn more about Hannah Senesh, you can look in your library or bookstore for *Hannah Senesh, Her Life and Diary*. A documentary called, "Blessed is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh" was filmed in 2008 and is also available.

Today, many heroes tend to be basketball players, singers, actors. Maybe it's time we think about what a genuine hero is.

Discuss with your class what makes someone a real hero.

## Did You Know?

Caesarea has a beautiful country club and a golf course that runs through ancient imperial Roman ruins.



### Activity 3

What are all these things? What do they all have in common?  
which one doesn't belong?

- Caesarea
- A Caesar salad
- Caesar's Palace
- A Caesar cut

All these things are named after the Roman Caesar, apart from the salad, which was named after the chef who created it!

Caesarea does not have its own emblem as it is part of the Hof HaCarmel Regional Council. The emblem shows two ears of wheat (representing the agricultural nature of the area)

and the Carmel Mountain. The sea and the old pillar represent Caesarea, the ancient port city.





## Akko - Acre

### History

The city of Akko (Acre) is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. As with the other ancient cities in Eretz Yisrael, Akko was conquered by many different invading armies.



In ancient times Akko served as a commercial and fishing port, the main port on the *Via Maris* on the coast of Eretz Yisrael, until Caesarea became the main port. When the Romans controlled Eretz Yisrael, the Talmudic sages would often have to travel to Rome to discuss issues of policy regarding the Jews. They would travel to Rome from the port of Akko.

The following account from a German traveler during crusader times, gives us a feel of the town:

*The public squares, or streets, within the city were exceedingly neat, all the walls of the houses of like height with one another and built without exception of hewn stones, being wondrously adorned with glass windows and painting. Moreover, all the palaces and houses of the city were built not simply to serve ordinary needs, but designed with a care for human comfort and enjoyment, being fitted up inside and decorated outside with glass, painting, hangings and other ornament, as each man was able. The public places of the city were covered over with silken sheets or other splendid stuffs for shade. At every street corner stood a very strong tower protected by an iron door and chain. The nobility lived around the inner part of the city in exceedingly strong castles and palaces. In the center of the city lived the craftsmen and merchants, everyone in a special place according to his trade, and all the inhabitants of the city deemed themselves like the Romans of old and carried themselves like noble lords, as indeed they were.*

What does this description tell us about the people of Akko?

## Did You Know?

In the US there is an expression: "It is like selling ice to the Eskimos"

In the UK: "It is like bringing coal to Newcastle"

Do you know the Talmud's equivalent? "It is like bringing fish to Akko"!

This clearly indicates how important Akko was for its fish industry during Talmudic times.

## Modern Times

During the 18th Century, a large fortress in the middle of Akko had been heavily reinforced. The British used it as a maximum security prison for criminals and later for political prisoners who were suspected of anti-British activities.

The detainees were crammed 20-30, into its tiny cells. They slept on floors covered with flimsy rags to keep out the cold. Many Jews from the various underground military groups were held here, such as Ze'ev Jabotinsky and eight young men who were executed on the gallows in the prison.

The Akko prison was the most highly-guarded fortress in the country, surrounded by walls and encircled to the east and north by a deep moat, the sea to the south. It was located in an Arab town with no Jewish inhabitants.



The prison was considered to be impregnable. No one had ever escaped from the prison.

In 1947, the British hanged four Irgun members on the gallows in the Akko prison. Subsequently, the Irgun made plans for a prison break. Reconnaissance efforts discovered a weak spot in the citadel: the southern wall right above a Turkish bath. The break-out was planned for Sunday May 4, 1947, at 4 p.m.



The Irgun devised a plan in which 41 prisoners would have to reach the southern wall on their own, and from there, the Irgun would help them escape. Explosives, detonators and a fuse were smuggled into the jail by the parents of prisoners, who were allowed to bring small amounts of food. The explosives were hidden inside a can, under a thick layer of jam. When a British sergeant opened the can and examined its contents and saw that there were hard lumps (in fact gelignite), he accepted the story that the jam had not gelled properly. The detonators and the fuse were concealed in the false bottom of a container of oil, which was also thoroughly examined. The sergeant poked a long stick into the can to examine the level of the oil, but since the fuse and the detonators were less than one centimeter thick, he did not notice the false bottom. The explosives were used to make 30 hand grenades and 2 bombs to blast the prison walls open.

The attacking fighters were disguised as British soldiers. They were all given "English" haircuts and British Army uniforms, while three were dressed as Arabs. After they had been briefed and armed, they set out in a convoy of vehicles including a 3-ton military truck, two military vans with British camouflage colors and two civilian vans.



*Irgun men disguised as British soldiers*

When they reached the southern wall of the fortress, ladders were removed from one of the vehicles and the "engineering



unit" went into the Turkish bath-house in order to "repair" the telephone lines. They climbed the ladders to the roof adjacent to the fortress wall, and hauled up explosive charges to hook them to the windows of the prison.

An additional three-man squad, disguised as Arabs, was positioned north of Akko, and at the same moment that the operation began, they fired a mortar at the nearby British army camp in order to create a diversion.

Back in the fortress, at 3 p.m., the doors of the cells were opened for afternoon exercise. The prisoners who were not scheduled to escape went down to the courtyard to create a diversion, while the escapees remained in their cells. At 4:22 p.m., a loud explosion shook the entire area, as the wall of the fortress was blasted open.



The escapees leaped out of their cells and ran down the corridor towards the hole in the wall. There were two locked gates at the end of the corridor between them and the hole in the wall. The prisoners attached the explosive charges to the gates one by one, lit the fuse and blew them open, allowing them to escape the prison.

Behind them, a second group of fighters made a fire so that the guards could not chase them. A third group of fighters threw grenades at the guards on the roof, who fled. In the confusion created by the explosion, the gunfire and the fire, 41 prisoners made their way to freedom.



Thirteen escapees got into a waiting van and drove off. However, they were spotted by a group of British soldiers who fired at them. The driver tried to turn back, but hit a wall and the van overturned. The escapees ran towards a gas station, the soldiers pursuing them. When the firing stopped, five of the escapees were dead, six injured and only two were unscathed. They were captured and returned to jail.





The remaining escapees and members of the strike force in the truck and the second van escaped safely. At a certain point they abandoned their vehicles and made their way on foot to a town called Binyamina where they were given refuge. The following morning they were dispersed throughout the country

to pre-designated hiding places.

Twenty-eight inmates succeeded in escaping. Nine fighters were killed in clashes: six prisoners and three from the rescue party. Five of the rescue party were also arrested. Some Arab prisoners also took advantage of the commotion and managed to escape.

Despite the heavy toll in human lives, the action was described by foreign journalists as "the greatest jail break in history." The prison break had a strong effect on the morale of the *Yishuv* and is considered to have seriously damaged British prestige. Consequently, Britain asked the United Nations for help in Palestine, which ultimately led to the establishment of the State of Israel.

Three weeks after the jail break, the five Irgun fighters

who had

been captured after the operation were put on trial. Three of the defendants - Avshalom Haviv (21), Yaakov Weiss (23) and Meir Nakar (21) - were carrying weapons when they were caught. They were all sentenced to death.



*A memorial in Binyamina for those who fell in the Akko prison break and for those hanged inside the prison walls*



*Meir Nakar in British uniform*

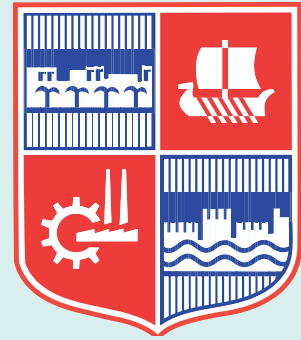


*Funeral of Haviv, Weiss and Nakar*

## Akko Today

On May 17, 1948, shortly after the beginning of the War of Independence, Israeli troops took control of Akko and most of the Arab inhabitants fled. Today, Akko has 40,000 inhabitants, a third of whom are Arabs. The Old City of Akko was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. It lies side by side with the modern industrial zone. Together, they symbolize the merging of the ancient and modern in this unique seaside town.

Akko's emblem consist of four parts: Top left: Palm trees and houses – there are many palm trees and new buildings in Akko. Top right: Old ship - symbolizing the importance of Akko's ancient port. Bottom left: A gearwheel and industrial buildings representing today's industry and progress. Bottom right: Walls and sea – denoting Akko's geographical position and its past.



### Activity 4

Choose one of the cities we explored in this lesson. Create an exciting brochure convincing potential tourists to come and visit. Make sure it contains information (both from the unit and your own research) and is colorful and attractive.

In the next lesson we will explore the modern cities that are located on Israel's coast.

# LESSON 3



## THE MODERN COASTAL CITIES

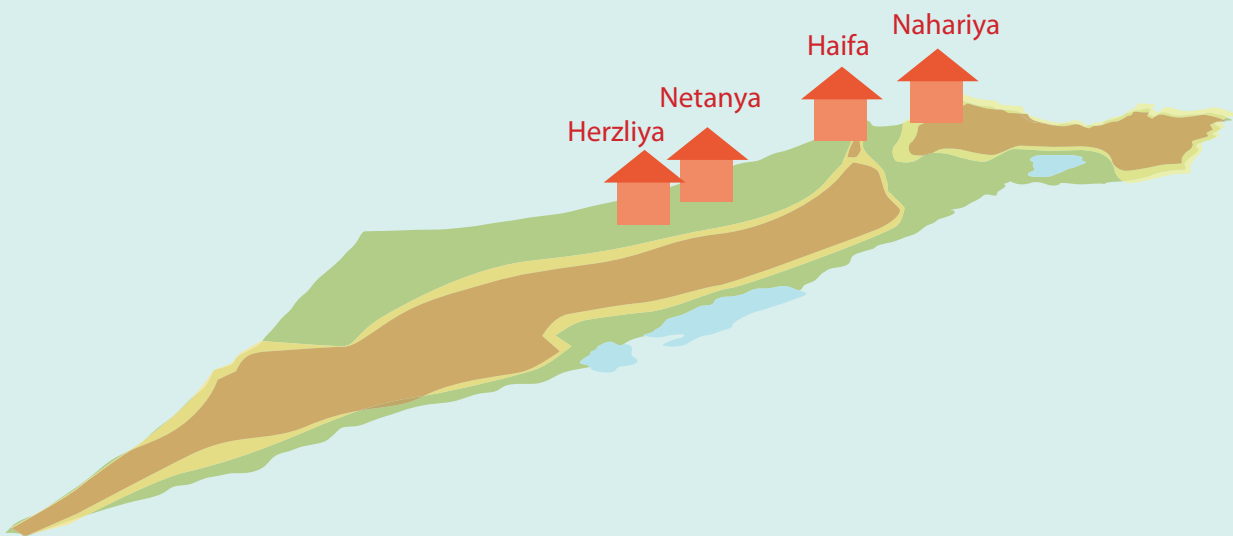
In the last lesson we learned about some of the ancient coastal cities. In this lesson we will explore bustling modern cities, some of which are only approximately eighty years old. You may have even visited these places yourselves. They include Nahariya, Haifa, Netanya and Herzliya.

You may have noticed that we have left out the largest and most important of Israel's coastal cities, Tel Aviv. That is because we learn about Tel Aviv in other units.

Your aims for this lesson are to:

- Explore some of the modern cities on Israel's coast
- Understand the importance of these cities to the region and to the State of Israel today
- Learn about the short history of these modern cities

Let's begin in the north, with the lesser known city of Nahariya.





# Nahariya

## History

The name Nahariya, River of God, is derived from two Hebrew words: *Nahar* which means river, and the two Hebrew letters נ, and ה which refer to God. The river is part of the Ga'aton River, which runs right through the center of the city's main street, Sderot ("boulevard") HaGa'aton. During the winter you can watch from the street as the water gushes into the Mediterranean Sea.

Nahariya was founded by pioneers from Germany who came in the 1930's during the Fifth *Aliyah*. Construction of the town began in 1933, and the first two families permanently settled in Nahariya on February 10, 1935. Nahariya was originally intended to be an agricultural village, but it soon became clear that the sand dunes on which the town had been built, made agriculture very difficult. So instead, the residents began developing the tourism industry. The beautiful beaches in the area were very attractive to people looking for rest and recreation. During the British Mandate, Nahariya became a popular tourist resort for British officers from all over the region.

Additionally, the hard-working and industrious inhabitants turned to manufacturing. They founded the Strauss dairy company, which later merged with Elite, the snack food company; the Soglowek meat processing company; and Iscar, the metalwork and tool making company.



## Did You Know?

Iscar manufactures high-precision industrial tools. It was founded in a wooden garage in the Nahariya home of Stef Wertheimer in 1952. In 2008, Iscar was bought by Warren Buffet for \$4 billion.

Stef Wertheimer, a Jew of German origin and one of the early settlers of Nahariya, is the wealthiest man in Israel today.

The first two families to move into their new homes were the Deutsch and Pauker families. Here is an account from Hannah Deutsch of her first year spent in Nahariya:

"Our means of transportation were donkeys and camels, which were mostly hired from the Arab neighbor from Achsiv, Abdul Karim. The camels carried heavy loads such as the furniture of newcomers, which had to be transported from the entrance to the settlement to their new house, or the sand used for mixing concrete in the building process. Every day the donkeys carried drinking water from the small Mafsukh

river in two 20 liter cans.

"Of course there was no WC, but even that was no problem: we soon placed a large box next to our house and with a few boards and a bucket everything was fine.

"We planted trees, laid out experimental



*Some of the early settlers*



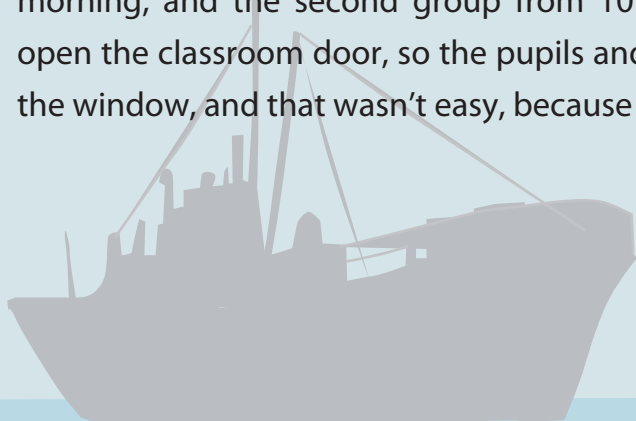


gardens and raised thousands of chicks. Other than that, the building activity never ceased. Each house seemed miles away from the next one because there were no connecting roads. In the afternoons, when I used to pick up my husband from the building site, it felt like an outing. The evenings were particularly lonely. But we tried to make things as cozy as possible. We were happy and didn't wish things to be any different."

Beate Rosenthal came to Nahariya with her parents as an 11 year-old child in 1936. Here is her account of life as a child in the early days of Nahariya:

"We arrived at Nahariya in June 1936 and school was supposed to start that September. The first teacher, Mr. Riesenbergs, had just left, because he couldn't cope with the children from Germany. The pupils angered him persistently. Lessons were held south and north of the Ga'aton River, on alternate days. One day, when all the children had crossed over on the plank that connected the southern to the northern bank, they threw the plank into the river, before the teacher who was following behind them had crossed. The board drifted merrily towards the sea, and the teacher had to take a long detour over the main Akko-Beirut road to get to the northern part of Nahariya. Two months later two new teachers arrived, Mr. Artzi and Mr. Kurzberg. The first thing Mr. Kurzberg did was to change our German names into Hebrew ones. Hannelore became Chana, Mariana became Miriam. I wasn't called Beate anymore, but Batya.

"At the outset there was only one classroom. The children were divided into two groups according to age. The 14-15 year olds studied from 8 to 10 in the morning, and the second group from 10 to 12:30. Sometimes we couldn't open the classroom door, so the pupils and the teacher had to climb through the window, and that wasn't easy, because the window was narrow and high."



## Activity 1

What do these personal accounts tell us about life in Nahariya at that time?

In the 1940's the British authorities severely limited Jewish immigration to Palestine. The Haganah launched a campaign to bring "illegal" immigrant boats from Europe in defiance of the British. This immigration was called *Aliyah Bet*. Nahariya became an important landing site for the immigrant boats, with around ten ships landing on Nahariya's coast during the British blockade.

When personnel in Nahariya received a Morse code message that the arrival of a ship was imminent, Haganah instructors equipped with radio transmitters came to the water tower to set up contact with the ship. Immigrants who made it ashore avoiding capture by the British were hidden and cared for by residents of Nahariya. One of the "illegal" immigrant ships that landed off the Nahariya coast was called the United Nations. It had 700 refugees aboard, among them 40 children and many women. Five hundred and thirty seven people were successfully hidden before the arrival of the military and the police, while 131 were arrested and placed in a detention camp. Following this event, the British imposed a 24-hour curfew on Nahariya. The Hannah Senesh, another one of the boats that tried to land off the coast of Nahariya, capsized and sank, but was subsequently refloated for use by the new Israeli navy.



## Nahariya Today

Today, Nahariya has a population of more than 50,000. It has 22 schools with over 7,000 students.

Nahariya is Israel's most northern coastal town, located only 6 miles from the border with Lebanon, and it has been a frequent target of cross-border terrorist attacks and rocket fire. During both of Israel's wars in Lebanon in 1982 and 2006, Nahariya sustained a barrage of hundreds of Katyusha rockets.



## Things to See and Do in Nahariya

- Stroll along Sderot HaGa'aton, where dozens of coffee shops, restaurants and stores are located. Waiting to take you on a tour of the city and the coast are horse-drawn carriages, lined up on the street during the summer and holiday seasons.
- Another feature of the city is its old fashioned tourist train which runs in the evenings during summer. The train, a replica locomotive with two passenger wagons, can carry about fifty passengers and departs from Sderot HaGa'aton making round trips from the city center to the beach.
- The Nahariya beach area is an attraction in its own right, with a public



park, a waterfront promenade, two public beaches, several hotels, a small marina and a lively nightlife in the multitude of beachfront cafes, restaurants and nightclubs.

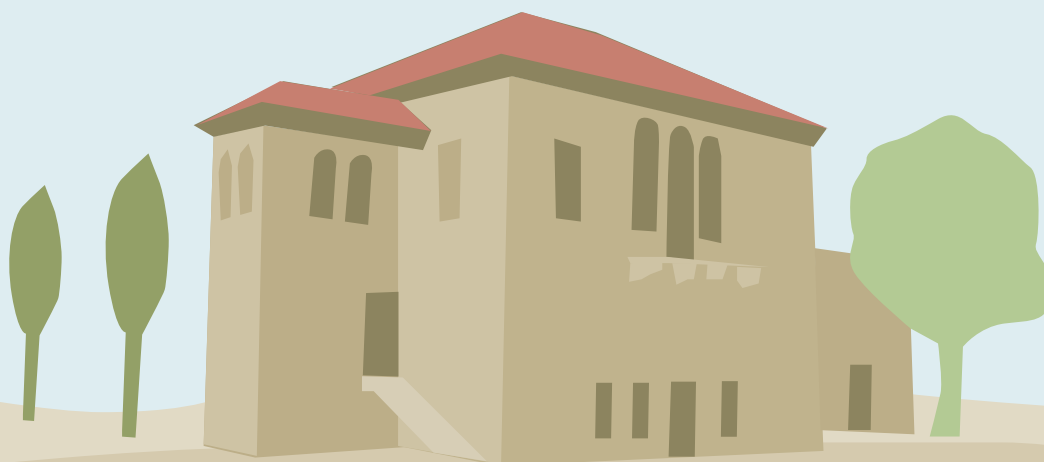
- Other sites worth seeing include the Nahariya Historical Museum and the botanical and zoological garden. The city also recently built a new Olympic-sized sports arena which hosts games and international conferences.



Nahariya is situated in the area of land that was given to the tribe of Asher. At the top of the city's emblem, the blessing given to Asher: "Asher - blessed of all sons" is written in ancient Hebrew script.



The tree planted in the fertile soil on the right side of the emblem, represents Nahariya's ancient roots. The water tower that soars into the sky on the left side of the emblem, represents the modern city resettled by the pioneers. A sun of a new dawn spreads its rays over past and present, representing an optimistic future.







## Haifa

Haifa is Israel's third largest city with a mixed Jewish-Arab population of 265,000. The city is built on the slope of Mount Carmel. From the peak, you can see the city unfold all the way down the mountainside to the Haifa Bay on the Mediterranean. There are many legends explaining the origin of the name Haifa. One explanation is that it is the combination of the Hebrew words *Hof* – coast, and *yaffe* – beautiful.

The population growth of Haifa has been quite remarkable. In 1854, there were 2,070 Arabs and 34 Jews, yet by 1947, less than 100 years later, there were 70,910 Arabs and 74,230 Jews. Both populations grew rapidly because of Haifa's importance as an industrial port city.



During the War of Independence, in 1948, the majority of Arabs fled their homes, with only five to six thousand remaining at the end of the war in 1949. After the war, Haifa became a major route for Jewish immigration into Israel. Many immigrants settled there. Because of this, Haifa's population ballooned, and several new suburbs were constructed to accommodate the demand for housing.

## Haifa Today – facts and figures

The population of Haifa today is 266,000 - 80% Jewish, 6% Christian Arab, 4% Muslim and 10% members of other faiths.

There is a phrase in Israel that describes the nature of Haifa compared to Israel's other two major cities – "While Jerusalem prays and Tel Aviv plays, Haifa works." This describes the industrial nature of Haifa, with its economy based around the port, including the oil refinery, the cargo harbor, and Israel's busiest passenger port. Haifa also hosts many Israeli and international hi-tech research and development departments. Many of the brightest of Israel's hi-tech engineers graduated from Haifa's world renowned Technion (Institute of Technology). Haifa also has a budding tourism industry, with more than 10 miles of beaches, and many hotels. Its visitors flock to the many tourist attractions, including the famous Bahai Gardens, Elijah's cave on Mount Carmel and the nearby Ein Hod artist colony.

Haifa has excellent transportation connections, including six railway stations serving the suburbs and center of town, the Carmelit – Israel's only subway system - Israel's busiest passenger port and a local airport.



### Did You Know?

The Carmelit is Israel's only and the world's smallest subway system. Because much of Haifa is built into the slope of Mount Carmel, the Carmelit, named after the mountain, is an underground inclined subway that climbs up and down the mountain. Carmelit cars have a slanted design, with steps within each car and on the station platform. The Carmelit has only four cars, six stations and a single tunnel 1,800 meters long. Two attached cars climb up the mountain while simultaneously two attached cars climb down.

## Things to See and Do in Haifa

Haifa has over a dozen museums including the Israel National Museum of Science, Technology and Space; the Haifa Museum of Art; the National Maritime Museum and Haifa City Museum; and Chagall Artists' House. The city also has several theatres, a symphonic orchestra, and hosts an International Film Festival annually.



The Bahai Gardens is a spectacular terraced garden sculptured into the mountainside. It includes the "Golden Dome" shrine, which is the center of the Bahai religion. The Bahai is a religion that believes in the unity of humanity and strives towards world peace. Haifa is the spiritual center of the Bahai faith.

The 19 terraces of beautiful flowers all landscaped in geometric designs attract half a million visitors each year.

Elijah's Cave, located on the slope of Mount Carmel, is believed to be the place where Elijah hid from the kings of Israel after he had admonished them over their worship of idols. Today, the cave has a Torah Ark and a

place where visitors can insert prayer notes. On a nearby site Elijah challenged the prophets of Ba'al and called down fire from heaven.





## ***Did You Know?***

The story of the confrontation between Eliyahu HaNavi and the prophets of Ba'al took place on Mount Carmel (I Kings 18) where Haifa is located today.

When Eliyahu became a prophet, King Ahab allowed the worship of the idol Ba'al and even built a temple to him. Ahab also allowed a large group of priests and prophets of Ba'al to operate freely in the country. This was a time of famine and drought and the people of Israel had begun to worship Ba'al and Ashera another idol, in the hope that they would end the drought. Eliyahu decided to challenge the prophets of Ba'al and Ashera to prove once and for all to the people that they were false and only God can bring rain. He summoned 450 prophets of Ba'al and 400 prophets of Ashera to Mount Carmel.

Two altars were built, one for Ba'al and one for God. Wood was placed on the altars and two oxen were placed on the wood. Eliyahu then invited the prophets of Ba'al to pray for fire to come from heaven to light the sacrifice. They prayed from morning to noon without success and he mocked their inability to prove themselves. They continued praying until evening without success. Eliyahu then ordered that the altar of God be soaked with water from "four large jars," poured three times each. He asked God to accept the sacrifice. Instantly, fire came down from the sky, igniting the sacrifice. Eliyahu saw this as an opportunity to rid the people of the prophets of Ba'al and ordered their execution. Eliyahu prayed for rain to fall again on the land, and it began to rain, signaling the end of the famine. The people of Israel resumed their faith in God.





## Activity 2

### Design a Haifa Promotional Tourism Free Gift

Design a Haifa refrigerator magnet set to be given away as a free gift in a tourism package. The set should have five pieces to it, each one showing a different attractive aspect to Haifa, encouraging prospective tourists to visit.

The city emblem revolves around the port of Haifa, with two lighthouses guiding ships safely from the open sea into the ancient port. Above the emblem is the old fort of Haifa. The fort, which was situated on this site for hundreds of years until 1880, represents the need for war and defense. It has an olive branch inserted through it, representing the yearning for peace. The name Haifa is written in Hebrew, Arabic and English, representing the multi-cultural nature of the city, with all of its population living peacefully side by side.



Your teacher will now divide you into two groups. Group *Aleph* will learn about Netanya and Group *Bet* will learn about Herzliya.

## Group *Aleph*: Netanya

Netanya, a city of 180,000 people, is a popular tourist resort with nine miles of white sandy beaches.

### History

The idea to create the settlement of Netanya was drawn up by pioneers in 1928. They decided to name the city in honor of Nathan Straus, a Jewish American philanthropist, and informed him of their decision on June 2, 1928, his 80th birthday. The name Netanya also had additional significance for them, as it means “given by God.” For the pioneers, it was as if God gave them this desert land, and commanded them to turn it into a flowering garden.



### Did You Know?

Nathan Straus (1848-1931) was an American businessman and philanthropist who owned two of New York City's biggest department stores, R.H. Macy & Company and Abraham & Straus.

In 1912 he visited Eretz Yisrael, a trip which would change his life. During the trip he became fascinated with the Holy Land, and chose to stay longer, while his brother Isidor and Isidor's wife headed back to New York aboard the Titanic. When it sank and he learned that they had perished, he felt that he had been spared by divine intervention and decided to give away most of his fortune to Zionist causes.

A major street in Jerusalem, Rechov Straus, is named in his honor.





On December 14, 1928, a team began digging for water. Water was discovered in February 1929 and a few days later, the first five settlers moved onto the land and began plowing and cultivating it. In the following years, Netanya continued to grow, with the first kindergarten and shop opening in 1930, and the first school in 1931, by which time there were 100 settlers.

Netanya became a major destination for the smuggling in of Jewish “illegal” immigrants into Eretz Yisrael. In 1934, the first ship of “illegal” immigrants carrying 350 Jews, landed near Netanya’s shoreline. Over seventeen ships landed near the city, with the residents of Netanya helping the immigrants slip ashore. By December 1948, Netanya had 9,000 residents and was the first settlement to receive city status following the establishment of the State of Israel.

Initially, the early settlers farmed citrus groves, employing many hired workers, thereby encouraging more people to move to the area. Netanya also became famous for diamond polishing, as the industry was transferred from Nazi-dominated Belgium to Palestine in the 1940’s (the center later moved to the Tel Aviv area). Later, the city’s economy became based mainly on tourism and industry. Netanya is one of Israel’s most popular seaside resorts with dozens of hotels. The city’s industry is concentrated in two large industrial areas and includes hi-tech, steel, pharmaceuticals, food, beer, textiles, rubber, furniture and electronics. Netanya has also become a regional commercial center.

### Netanya Today – facts and figures

Because of its location and beautiful beaches, Netanya has attracted thousands of new immigrants. While walking along the seashore



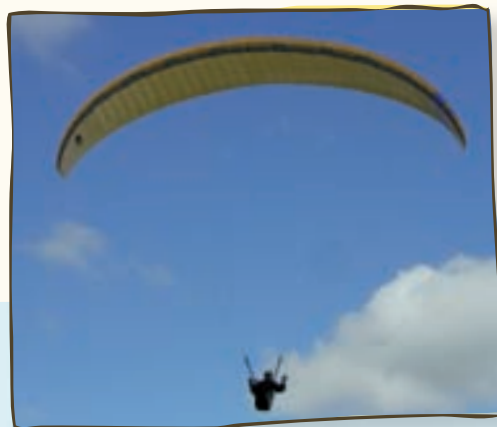


and its promenade, you can hear English, French, Russian, Amharit, many other languages and of course, Hebrew.

### Things to See and Do in Netanya

As well as the wonderful beaches, restaurants, and miles of promenade to walk along, Netanya has numerous museums and galleries. The Well House is a museum that tells the early history of Netanya. It is located on a farm established in 1928, and as such is one of the earliest buildings in Netanya. The city also hosts the Tribes of Israel Pearl Museum, the Museum of Yemenite Jewish Heritage, the Shlomo Dror Art Institute, and the Diamimon diamond museum.

Netanya is also the home of paragliding in Israel. The moderate cliffs plus a stiff offshore breeze provide an ideal environment for safe, fun and relaxing paragliding. Gliders are often seen cruising high above the beach, just along the cliff line.



### Did You Know?

Netanya is also the home of the Sanzer Chassidic group, which was established there by their leader, Rabbi Halberstam, in 1960.

During the Shoah, his wife, eleven children and most of his followers were murdered by the Nazis. He witnessed terrible suffering but was most disturbed by the apathy shown to people's distress. He decided that if he survived the Holocaust, he would build a hospital in order to help relieve people's suffering. Rabbi Halberstam remarried after the war and succeeded in beginning a new family as well as reestablishing his Chassidic group. He built the Laniado





Hospital in Netanya in 1976. Jewish Law is used as the guide for all of its practices and ethical decisions for the 100,000 patients it treats each year. Providentially, the hospital's largest department is the maternity unit.



The symbol of the city is the flower, Havatzelet HaSharon (the Sharon lily) flourishing along the seashore cliff. The emblem's background is a shield, symbolizing Netanya's importance for defense. The smoke chimneys at the top of the emblem symbolize the developed industry in the city. The sea waves, right and left of the flower, symbolize the city's shore, making it one of the most popular tourist sites in the country. The diamond, appearing in the shape of a polished Magen David, is a symbol of the diamond industry in Netanya. While the colors of the crest are blue and white, the flag of Netanya is orange, symbolizing the oranges that grow in the abundant orchards of the Sharon.

### Activity 3

Draw a promotional poster to encourage people to visit Netanya. Think about the scenes you would like to promote as well as a clever by-line for the poster.

## Group Bet: Herzliya

Herzliya, a resort city with a population of over 85,000, is named after the founder of modern Zionism, Theodor Herzl.



### History

Herzliya was founded in 1924 as a *moshava*, a semi-cooperative farming community, with a mixed population of new immigrants and veteran residents. It was built on land acquired by the Zionist Organization of America. The first settlers soon developed a flourishing agricultural center based mainly on the farming of citrus fruits such as oranges and grapefruits. However, during the Second World War they could no longer export their citrus produce so instead they developed other types of agriculture and industry. After the establishment of the state in 1948, large numbers of immigrants settled in the city, increasing its population dramatically. By 1960, Herzliya's population had reached 25,000, and it was declared a city. Today the city is divided into three main areas: Herzliya Pituach, a fashionable residential area; the industrial area with numerous high-tech firms, cafés and restaurants; and the eastern belt, including the city center and residential neighborhoods.

### Herzliya Today – facts and figures



In a quality of life survey, Herzliya ranked second highest among Israel's 15 largest cities. Herzliya Pituach, the part of the city that is closest to the beach, is one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the entire country, home to many diplomats and famous people.

The city has many fine stores and restaurants and becomes a vibrant entertainment center at night. The attractive malls and shopping centers serve the local population as well as residents of surrounding urban and rural

communities, making Herzliya a city alive with energy and excitement.

Herzliya is considered the capital of Israel's flourishing high-tech sector due to its high concentration of state-of-the-art companies. Many of the Israeli software and biotech companies that are traded on the American stock exchange are located in the Herzliya area, as well as many research and development departments of global companies, such as Hewlett-Packard and HP Scitex, Horizon Semiconductors, IBM, Matrix, Microsoft, Motorola, and many more. Israel's high-tech industry is developing Israel into a strong and vibrant economy.



### ***Did You Know?***

In the world of high-tech, Israel has the nickname "Silicon Wadi." Wadi is the word used in the Middle East for a valley or riverbed. This is a play on the more famous concentration of high-tech companies in California, called Silicon Valley. The term silicon refers to the silicon chip which is used in electronics.



## **Did You Know?**

Israel's flourishing high-tech industry, second only to the United States in developing new technology, accounts for 70% of Israel's exports. Here is a list of some of Israel's most famous high-tech inventions:

- The technology used by NASA to transmit videos to earth from the moon
- The first high resolution camera that fits on a single electronic chip for use in cellular phones
- Computer security technologies such as the first antivirus software and firewall
- Early warning earthquake and tsunami detectors
- Cell phone technologies such as voicemail and SMS
- The Intel high speed Centrino processor
- Computerized drip irrigation (one of Israel's first world-famous inventions)
- The first fully computerized radiation-free breast cancer diagnostic scanning device

## **Things to See and Do in Herzliya**

- The museum of Herzliya's history, in one of the city's original houses, documents the city's growth. Nearby is Herzliya's Museum of Art.
- One of Israel's private universities is located in Herzliya, the Herzliya Interdisciplinary Center. It offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in government, business administration, law, computer science and



other academic disciplines.

- One of Israel's largest television and film studios is located in Herzliya.
- Herzliya's marina was built in the 1970's, and today you will find many large luxury yachts and boats of all shapes and sizes docked there. The marina also has an upscale shopping mall.



### **Did You Know?**

There is a water tower next to the highway at the Herzliya junction with a larger than life image of Theodor Herzl looking out over the city.



## **Activity 3**

### **A Utopian City**

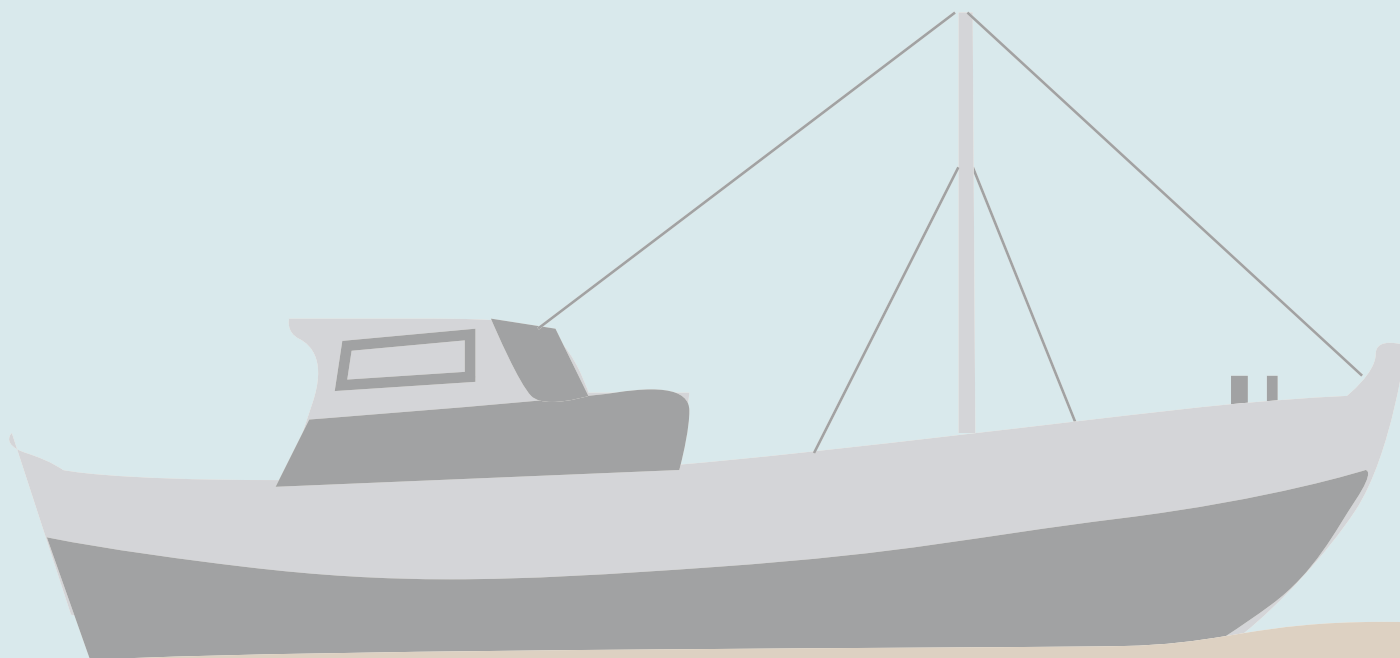
Herzliya is named after Theodore Herzl. In Herzl's book *Altenu Land* (Old / New Land, published in 1902) he described his utopian vision of what the future Jewish State would look like. Utopia is an ideal place, normally a vision of how the world could be. Some would say Herzliya is the closest to Herzl's utopian vision.

- Describe your own utopian city in Israel.
- How does it compare to Herzl's (see synopsis below)?
- How does it compare to Herzliya?

## Altneuland Synopsis

Herzl pictured the future Jewish State as a utopia where everyone was equal. He envisioned a new society that was to rise in the Land of Israel on a cooperative basis using science and technology in the development of the land. He included detailed ideas about how he saw the future state's political structure, immigration, fund raising, diplomatic relations, social laws and relations between religion and the state. In *Altneuland*, the Jewish State was foreseen as a pluralist, advanced society, a "light unto the nations." This book had a great impact on the Jews of the time and became a symbol of the Zionist vision in the Land of Israel.

The seven stars on Herzliya's emblem represent Herzl's vision of a seven-hour workday. The branches represent the original agricultural settlement of Herzliya. The ship in the center symbolizes the city's proximity to the sea. The gearwheel is the symbol of industry in Herzliya.



## Activity 4

### Tel Aviv Bonus Assignment

While we did not explore Tel Aviv in this lesson, it would be strange to have an advertising campaign for Israel's coastal region without featuring this exciting Israeli city. For bonus points you can research and create an information brochure on Tel Aviv and insert it into your final assignment.

Here are some ideas to include in the brochure:

- A colorful photograph/drawing capturing the essence of Tel Aviv on the front of the brochure
- A paragraph of historical facts about Tel Aviv
- A paragraph of present day facts about Tel Aviv
- A list of interesting places to visit in Tel Aviv
- A list of fun facts about Tel Aviv

## Activity 5

Many cities around the world are twinned with other cities. Choose one of the cities on Israel's coastal plain and write a letter to your City Hall to convince them to officially twin your city with the one you have chosen. Explain to them why you think your chosen city is a wonderful place, and what it has in common with your own city.

In this lesson we learned about some of the modern cities on Israel's coastal plain. In the next lesson we will explore some of the smaller settlements located on Israel's coast.

# LESSON 4



## THE SMALLER SETTLEMENTS ON THE COAST

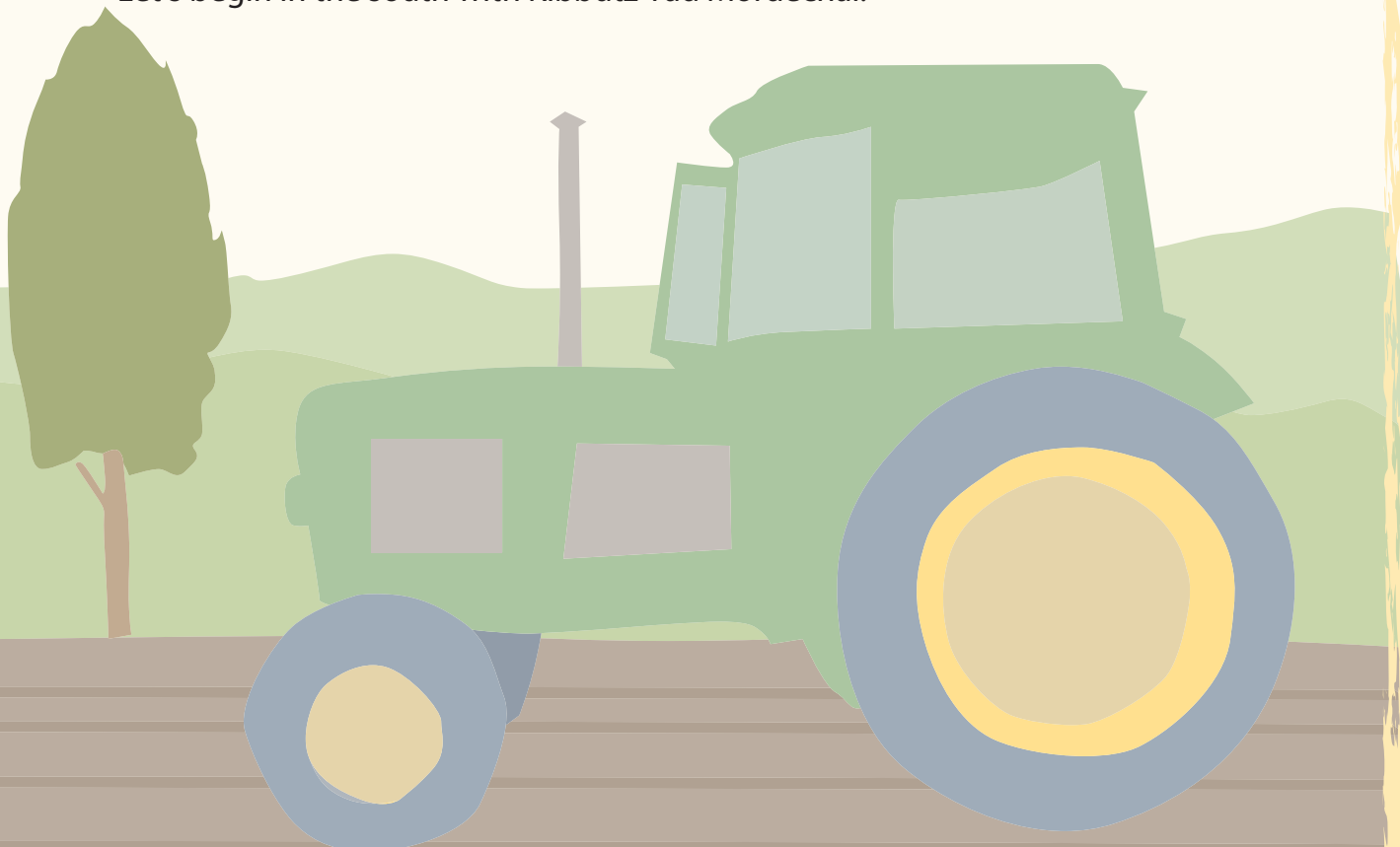
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Let's explore a few of the smaller rural settlements found along Israel's coastal plain, such as Yad Mordechai, Zichron Yakov, Atlit, and Rosh HaNikra. Some of them played important roles in the building of the foundations for the future State of Israel.

Your aims for this lesson are to:

- Explore some of the smaller settlements on Israel's coast
- Understand the historical importance of these settlements in Jewish and Zionist history

Let's begin in the south with Kibbutz Yad Mordechai.





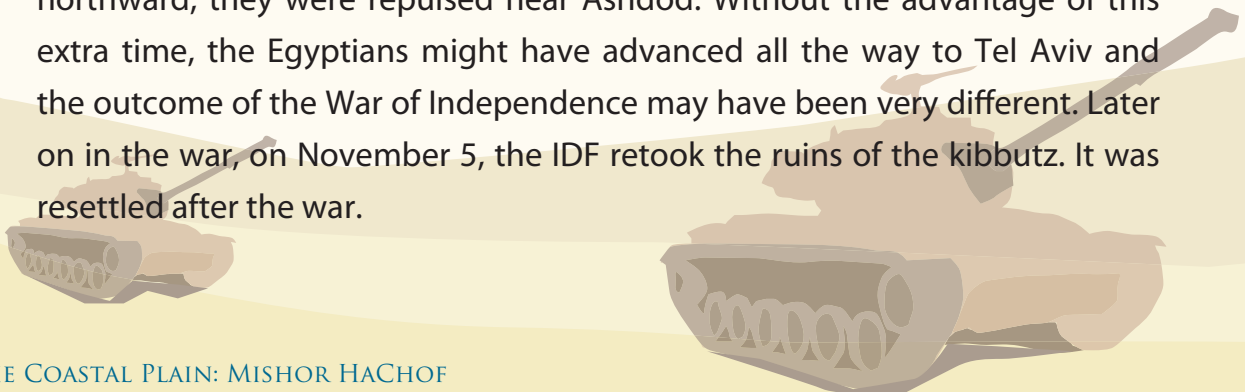
## Yad Mordechai

Yad Mordechai is a kibbutz located south of Ashkelon near the Gaza Strip. It was founded in 1943 and is named after the heroic leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Mordechai Anielewicz.

### History

The kibbutz was built on a hill overlooking and dominating the coastal road between Gaza and Ashkelon. This road was the main access route from the south towards the center of the country. This meant that the kibbutz was an extremely important strategic location for the defense of the country during the War of Independence in 1948. If the kibbutz could control this road, they could prevent an advance by the Egyptian army from the South.

In May 1948, the Egyptian forces advanced towards the kibbutz in what later became known as the Battle of Yad Mordechai. The kibbutz was attacked several times on May 19 and 20 by the Egyptians whose 2,500 soldiers far outnumbered the 130 Jewish defenders, but they failed to capture it. A final Egyptian attack was launched on May 23 during which they succeeded in capturing part of the kibbutz. The kibbutz finally fell on May 24. Although the kibbutz fell, the five days that it held out, gave the IDF enough time to prepare a proper defense. When the Egyptians continued to advance northward, they were repulsed near Ashdod. Without the advantage of this extra time, the Egyptians might have advanced all the way to Tel Aviv and the outcome of the War of Independence may have been very different. Later on in the war, on November 5, the IDF retook the ruins of the kibbutz. It was resettled after the war.



## Yad Mordechai Today

The kibbutz today has 710 members, and is well known for its beekeeping and honey products. It is also famous for its Holocaust museum, which has a special focus on the story of Anielewicz and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Next to the old water tower that was destroyed during the Battle for Yad Mordechai is a sculpture of him clutching a grenade. The tower has since been preserved as a memorial to the fighters who fell during the battle. The museum also tells the story of this battle.



### Did You Know?

#### Mordechai Anielewicz and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Anielewicz was born to a poor family in a small town just outside Warsaw in Poland in 1919. After he graduated high school he became a leader in the Zionist socialist youth movement Hashomer HaTzair. He managed to escape Warsaw after the German invasion in September 1939, but he returned in the summer of 1942 to organize armed resistance against the Nazis. There he found that almost 300,000 of the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto had been deported to death camps, mainly Treblinka, leaving only 60,000. He joined the ZOB (Jewish Combat Organization) and in November 1942 was appointed its chief commander. The uprising began in January 1943.

The ghetto fighters, numbering between 400 and 1,000, armed only with pistols, revolvers and improvised explosives, faced an average daily force of more than 2,000 well-armed and trained German soldiers.



The resistance lasted four months and cost the Germans heavy casualties. The uprising ended on May 16 1943, when the Germans discovered the command post at 18 Mila Street. 13,000 Jews were killed in the ghetto during the uprising, and the remaining 50,000 were deported to extermination camps, mainly Treblinka.

Mordechai Anielewicz and the fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising became legendary heroes in Israel and throughout the world, and still today represent the spirit of defiance and resistance against the Nazis in the Holocaust.

## **Activity 1**

### **The Heroes of Yad Mordechai**

Write a short pamphlet explaining why it is appropriate that the kibbutz is named after Mordechai Anilewicz. What do the defenders of the kibbutz in 1948 have in common with Mordechai Anilewicz? Why do you think they chose to name their kibbutz after him? Remember that the kibbutz members chose the name before the battle in 1948. Do you think their hero inspired the way they fought during the Battle for Yad Mordechai?

## Atlit

Atlit is a small town just south of Haifa that became most famous for the detainee camp located next to it during the British Mandate.

### History

Atlit was once a major crusader stronghold. Today, it is better known for the infamous detention camp that the British built nearby. In 1939, the British used it to imprison the *ma'apilim* ("illegal" Jewish immigrants) who were trying to flee Nazi Europe and gain entry into Eretz Yisrael. When the *ma'apilim* were brought to the camp, men and women were segregated to separate sides by barbed wire, they were sprayed with DDT, a pesticide to kill any disease-carrying lice or insects, and herded into showers. They were then guarded by British soldiers in the barbed wire camp. Many of the prisoners were survivors of the Holocaust, and suffered tremendously under these conditions.

On October 10, 1945, Yitzhak Rabin, an underground Jewish commando and future prime minister of Israel, led a breakout from the camp that freed 200 prisoners.

### Atlit Today

Atlit today is a small coastal town with 5,000 inhabitants. The salt factory established in 1922 still exists and produces 25 tons of salt a year. The British detention camp was restored and rebuilt in 1987 as a national monument and has thousand of visitors each year. Inside the barracks and buildings of the



*Children that survived the Holocaust disembark the train at the Atlit detainee camp*



camp, the stories of the *Aliyah Bet*, the “illegal” immigrant ships, and the camp itself is told. The museum also has an interactive audio-visual presentation and a database of all illegal ships and all the immigrants who passed through the gates of the camp.



*Detainees waiting to be disinfected in this shack*

### ***Did You Know?***

Shayetet 13, the Navy's elite special forces unit, trains in the Atlit region. The unit specializes in sea-to-land incursions, counter-terrorism, sabotage, maritime intelligence gathering and maritime hostage rescue. Shayetet 13 is one of the best commando forces in the world.



## Activity 2

The Israeli Navy has a base in Atlit. Research and make baseball type cards describing the following Israeli navy boats.



*Dolphin class submarine*



*Sa'ar 4.5 class missile boat*



*Sa'ar 5-class corvette*



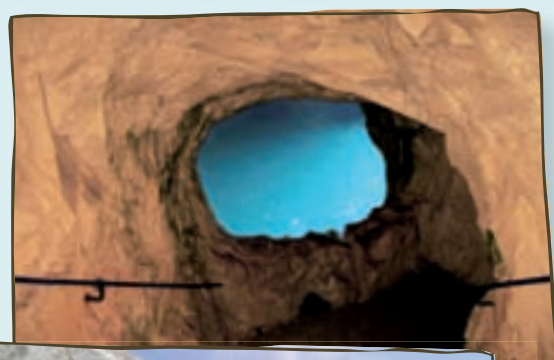
*Shaldag class patrol boat*



*Nachshol patrol boat*

## Rosh HaNikra

Rosh HaNikra is a kibbutz on the extreme northern coast bordering with Lebanon. Rosh HaNikra means Head of the Grottoes. The grottoes are natural caves on the sea front which were formed by the waves of the sea relentlessly crashing against the soft-chalk rock on the coast. The resulting grottoes are cavernous tunnels which branch off in various directions. They are a natural wonder, fascinating in their mystery and breathtakingly beautiful at all hours of the day and throughout the year, but especially in winter. During a storm you can experience nature's strength in all its force with the explosive sound of the waves slamming into the mountain. Originally the only way to access the grottoes was from the sea by expert divers, but today the steepest cable car ride in the world, takes many thousands of visitors there every year.



### History

In ancient times, Rosh HaNikra was along the trade route between Lebanon and Syria in the north, and Egypt and North Africa in the south. It has been the gateway in and out of Eretz Yisrael since ancient times. The book of Joshua (13:6) mentions "*Misraphot Mayim*" south of Rosh Hanikra, as the border of the Israelite tribes during the 14 -13 centuries BCE. The Talmud refers to the cliff as "The Ladder of Tyre." In 333 BCE, Alexander the Great entered the Land of Israel through Rosh HaNikra, and is believed to have led his Greek army through these cliffs.

The British army invaded Lebanon from this direction during the two world wars, as did Israeli forces in the early 80's. During World War II, a tunnel was dug there for the railway to go to Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. When the British withdrew in 1948, Israeli forces took over Rosh HaNikra and blew up



the railway bridges in the grottoes to prevent the Lebanese army from invading from that direction. Rosh HaNikra was the site where Israeli and Lebanese officials negotiated and concluded an armistice in 1949 which ended the Lebanese-Israeli component of the War of Independence.

Kibbutz Rosh HaNikra was established in 1949. It grew bananas and avocados, and raised turkeys and other domesticated animals. In 1974, the kibbutz founded a biotechnology company. Its expertise is plant bio-chemistry. It has developed plant cells and plant tissue that has enabled them to develop many different varieties of plants and fruits which they are able to grow under less than ideal climate conditions. As a result, the kibbutz now exports millions of plants each year.



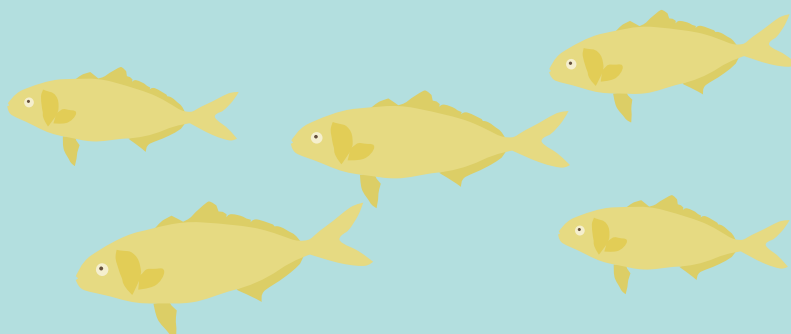
### Activity 3

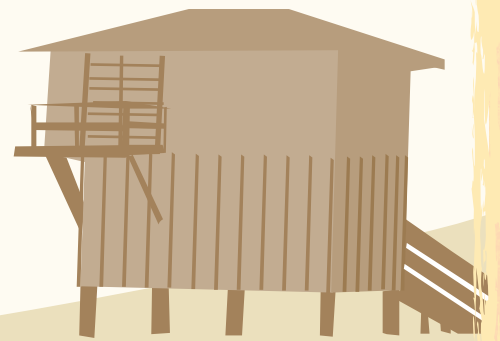
#### For Your Final Project

Make an exhibition of one of the places you visited in this lesson. Try to recreate through arts and crafts the spirit of each town, including maps, posters and anything else that will allow your visitors to understand what each place is like. Then become a tour guide and guide the rest of your class through the exhibition as if you were an official Israel tourism guide, guiding a group in Israel. If you can video this and upload it to YouTube for your final project, that would be great.

In these lessons we have learned about and seen the importance of the *Mishor Hachof*, Israel's coastal plain. We have learned about some of the ancient cities, some of the modern cities and some of the smaller cities that are on Israel's coast from north to south. We hope that the various activities that you have completed will help the Israeli Tourism Ministry to promote these places and









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