**Pre-Tour:**

**Lesson Plan: Beit Hatfutsot Online Educational Tour**

**Touchstone Materials:** You Are Part of the Story Video + Hallelujah! Exhibit

**Goals and Objectives:**

* Introduce Beit Hatfutsot
* Blurb about museum + link
* Introduce the concept of *You Are Part of the Story*
* Raise awareness of Jewish communities in different parts of the world
* Examine differences and similarities between other Jewish communities and their own
* Solidify their understanding of the role of synagogues in Jewish communities around the world
  + - How do they tell a story?
* List communities in You Are Part of the Story
  + - Poland, Russia, United States of America, South Africa, Israel, France, Spain, Morocco, Ethiopia
    - Which of these communities are represented in the synagogue gallery?

**Target Audience:**

Students aged 9-14. Limit on classroom per tour.

**Materials:**

* Computers and headphones (enough for each student to have one of both)
* You Are Part of the Story Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8_8z2quiBs&t=52s>
* Projector or interactive whiteboard to play video and Powerpoint on
* Copies of countries sheets (at least 4 for each country)
* Countries Powerpoint file: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1J05p0ZsjTqdILx0rFF5u1k0fqonU2wQzh2TrXNX348U/edit?usp=sharing
* Pre-Tour Kahoot: <https://play.kahoot.it/#/k/d696f141-c19c-47ef-af9e-5832deaef50d> (Optional)

**People:**

* Teacher/Instructor with students
* Students aged 9-14

**Detailed Procedure:**

1. Students watch You Are Part of the Story.

2.  Questions:

Which communities were represented? What surprised you in the movie? Is there anything that you discovered that you didn't you know about the Jewish people before? (i.e., diversity, history, social values)

3. Did any of these stories relate to your family story?

4. Inform the students that the movie itself is fictional but all the scenes are based on fact. Split up class into 9 groups, give each a sheet of paper with one country name and its two facts. Students should read facts, and together in small groups use the BH database to find an additional fact, and two pictures, they think interesting that go with their assigned country.

**Teacher should be familiar with BH online database, and should practice using it to find images before the class, so they can easily show students during the lesson.**

Guiding questions to help students:

* What stories have you heard from your grandparents about your family’s history that reminded you of the video?
* Do you know any of your family’s story?
* What communities are you originally from? What do you do with your family to keep that heritage alive and vibrant?

6. Using the provided countries Powerpoint (with slide and facts for each country), groups should stand in front of their country’s slide and present their fact and pictures, and say why they chose what they did.

7. *Optional:* Students get to play a Kahoot with questions based off the You Are Part of the Story video and what they will see in the tour of the Halleluja! Exhibit.

Students can play as guests using this link: <https://play.kahoot.it/#/?quizId=d696f141-c19c-47ef-af9e-5832deaef50d>

Teacher should use this link to operate it: https://create.kahoot.it/share/4th-6th-hallelujah-tour/d696f141-c19c-47ef-af9e-5832deaef50d

8. Give students a list of communities we may visit during the virtual tour. Ask them to pick three, write them down, and give to guide before tour begins. (We will be visiting synagogues from these communities): Warsaw, Berlin, Alexandria (Egypt), Morocco, Curacao, India, Prague, Ancient Greece, Venice, Amsterdam, Ukraine.

Fun Facts

Russia:

1. During the Cold War (Post-WWII to 1991) all Jewish practice and education occurred underground.
2. Between 1989 and 2006, roughly 980,000 Jews immigrated to Israel from the Former Soviet Union.

South Africa:

1. 90% of all the Jews in South Africa are Litvak (Lithuanian).
2. Portuguese Jewish mapmakers came to South Africa as early as the 15th century; they came via ships of famous explorers such as Vasco de Gama.

Poland:

1. Some of the first Jews to settle in Poland were traders from Spain In the modern period, Poland was called “Po Lan Ya” in Hebrew, meaning “God resides here”, noting how welcoming it was for Jews.
2. In the interwar years (1918-1939), Poland had a Jewish party in parliament.

United States:

1. Many Superheroes that we know and love today were created by Jewish authors: Superman, Batman, The Hulk, Captain America and many more!
2. The oldest Jewish community in North America was established in New Amsterdam (later New York City) in 1654.

France:

1. One of the most famous Jewish scholars, Rashi, was French.
2. France is the third largest Jewish community in the world.

Israel:

1. The glue on Israeli postage stamps is kosher.
2. Alexander the Great is said to have entered Israel in 333 BCE via the caves at Rosh Hanikra.

Spain:

1. One of the most famous Jewish scholars, Maimonides, was Spanish.
2. The term “Sephardim” indicates Jews who are of Spanish or Portuguese descent.

Morocco:

1. In 1948 more than 250,000 Jews were living in Morocco; now there are just around 2000.
2. Immigration to Israel was banned in Morocco from the years 1956 to 1963.

Ethiopia:

1. The term for Ethiopian Jews is Beta Israel.
2. In Ethiopian Jewish culture, the Torah is referred to as Orit.