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Holidays Around The World: Celebrate Rosh Hashanah And Yom Kippur: With Honey, Prayers, And The Shofar



Synopsis

Celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur examines how these Jewish High Holy Days are celebrated worldwide. Rosh Hashanah, known as the Jewish New Year, is a time for reflection and resolution. On Yom Kippur, also called the Day of Atonement, Jews fast, pray, and ask God's forgiveness for their sins. Deborah Heiligman's lively first-person text introduces readers to the sounding of the shofar, the holidays' greeting cards, prayers, and special foods. Rabbi Shira Stern's informative note puts the High Holy Days into wider historical and cultural context for parents and teachers. National Geographic supports K-12 educators with ELA Common Core Resources. Visit www.natgeoed.org/commoncore for more information.

Book Information

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Deborah Heiligman is an award-winning author of numerous children's books. She specializes in simplifying complex subjects for young people, particularly in the areas of science and social studies. Heiligman writes fiction as well as nonfiction for both early readers and middle-grade students. Some of her titles include *Babies: All You Need to Know*, *High Hopes: A Photobiography of John F. Kennedy*, and *From Caterpillar to Butterfly*. She lives in New York City.

This is a great book. I used it as an overview for my Sunday school class. I really liked the photos and the fact that they showed Jews celebrating all over the world.

Beautiful Gift for my young grandsons!

Concept, tone, layout and lively color photographs of Jews internationally explain the High Holidays to youngsters with awe and joy. If practice makes perfect, this third entry (first two on Hanukkah and Passover) about Jewish holidays in National Geographic's Holidays Around the World series proves the point. The text introduces religious and cultural details in a clear style. A tone of warm inclusiveness absorbs readers into their Jewish community with pride and delight while it invites non-Jews to understand Jewish religious customs. Readers see Jews celebrate around the world. Children discover Rosh Hashanah with sweetness and hope; they learn about atoning for sins, asking God for another year of life and marking the anniversary of creation. Celebrations at home highlight prayers, honey and round challah; those in synagogue, prayers, Torah and shofar. Tashlich gets a two page spread, then the mood grays with the ten Days of Repentance and Yom Kippur. Readers feel the seriousness of admitting sins, introspection, and fasting, but the gravitas is balanced by family togetherness and individual renewal. Because the book caters to young children, memorial services and candles appear in one photo caption and in the rabbinical end note, not in the main text. One small slip: Yom Kippur eve is erev, but Rosh Hashanah is the evening before. The layout uses key words in stand alone, large font to focus on the main ideas and succeeds admirably in delivering important concepts. Photographs of children's faces are full of pleasure. A recipe, glossary, map of photograph sites, the Al Het prayer and bibliography end this highly recommended book for children from 5 to 8 years old. Reviewed by Ellen G. Cole

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