Global Day of Jewish Learning
Curriculum: Creating Together

Rise & Shine
A Challah-Day Tale

NOV.17.13
www.theglobalday.com
A Project of the Aleph Society
Welcome to the Global Day of Jewish Learning. Today, Jews from around the world are all setting aside some time to learn.

The book of Genesis outlines the way that God created the world. Today we will explore the world God created while also looking into the smaller worlds that each and every one of us creates.

At the start of the book of Genesis, God sets out to create the world. It is a thoughtful creation. He takes six days to create the world. Each day brings something new.

Ask your students to share their knowledge of what was created.

Part One: Creation (15 minutes)

Take a few minutes to read the text below. It outlines what God created each day.

Text #1: Genesis 1:5–2:3 (selected verses)
5. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one
day...
8. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day...
11–13. And God said: ‘Let the earth put forth grass, herb yielding seed, and fruit-tree bearing fruit after its kind,
wherein is the seed thereof, upon the earth.’ And it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, herb yielding seed after
its kind, and tree bearing fruit, wherein is the seed thereof, after its kind; and God saw that it was good. And there was
evening and there was morning, a third day...
16–21. And God made the two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; and
the stars. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and
over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good.
And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.
And God said: ‘Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let fowl fly above the earth in the open
firmament of heaven.’ And God created the great sea-monsters, and every living creature that creeps, wherewith the
waters swarmed, after its kind, and every winged fowl after its kind; and God saw that it was good...23-25. And there
was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.
And God said: ‘Let the earth bring forth the living creature after its kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the
earth after its kind.’ And it was so.
And God made the beast of the earth after its kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps upon the
ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good. 27. And God created man in His own image, in the image of God
created He him; male and female He created them… 31. And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it
was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day...
2:3 And God blessed the seventh day,
and hallowed it; because that in it He rested from all His work which God in creating had made.

**Activity #1: Seven Days of Creation Worksheet**

- **Distribute the worksheet and crayons/markers.** Ask your students to fill in their worksheets to show what
  was created each day. If they have some time, they can color in their worksheet.

It is interesting to learn that it is only on the sixth day that God creates people.

**Text #2: Genesis 1:26-27**

And God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. They shall rule the fish of the sea, the birds of
the sky, the cattle, the whole earth, and all the creeping things that creep on earth.” And God created man in His
image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- **Ask:**
  1. Why do you think God waited to create people until after the rest of the world was created?
  2. What jobs are the first people given?
Activity #2: Anything to add?
It took God six days to create the universe. He filled it with light and darkness, water and dry land, plants and trees, animals and humans. Anything missing? Perhaps a unicorn or two? Turn to the person sitting next to you and come up with a new creation for the earth. It could be a new animal, a new type of tree—anything that you think would be a great addition to our planet! Share your idea with the class.

Part Two: Taking Care of Our World (15 minutes)

Imagine your favorite toy. How do you take care of it? Perhaps you play with it very carefully. Maybe you make sure to keep it clean and safe. Things that are very important to us are treated specially. God feels the same way about the world He created. Read the text below and learn about how God wants humankind to take care of the world.

Text #3: Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13

When God created Adam, God led him around all the trees in the Garden of Eden. God said to him, “See how beautiful and praiseworthy all of My works are? Everything I have created has been created for your sake. Think of this, and do not corrupt or destroy my world; for if you corrupt it, there will be no one to set it right after you.”

Ask:

1. Why does God take Adam on a tour of the Garden of Eden?
2. What message does God give Adam?

After God has worked creating the world, He then tells Adam that everything that was created was created for the sake of humankind. God warns Adam to take good care of the earth.

Ask:

1. God’s creation seems to be important and meaningful to Him. Can you relate? What do you create? What is meaningful to you?
Activity #3: What makes up your world?

While God created the universe, each of us lives in our own very special and unique world. We are surrounded by friends and family and community. Come up with a list of what makes your world so special. You can include the people you love, places you love to visit and things you love to do. All of those pieces come together to create Your World. Share your world with your class.

A Story taken from Babylonian Talmud Ta’anit 23a

The Talmud tells a wonderful story of a wise man named Honi. One day, Honi was out taking a walk when he saw an old man planting a carob tree. Honi was intrigued and walked over to the old man. Honi asked him, “How many years will it take for this tree to produce fruit?” The man answered him, “It will take seventy years.” Honi was surprised, “You are already an old man! Are you so healthy that you think you will live seventy more years and be able to eat the fruit from this tree? The man answered, “I found a world full of fruit when I was born because my ancestors planted it for me. So now I’m planting fruit for my children.”

Ask:

1. Why is the old man planting fruit?
2. Why do you think Honi is surprised to see the old man planting fruit?
3. What message can we learn from this story?

Conclusion (8 minutes)

God creates the whole world before adding people. It is as though God is giving the earth to Adam as a special gift that needs to be treasured and looked after. It seems that the things that we value the most need to be taken care of carefully and lovingly. We’re warned that it is our job to look after the earth and take care of it.

Ask:

1. What are some ways that we can help leave the world a better place?
Text #1: Genesis 1:5–2:3 (selected verses)

**Genesis 1:5**
And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

**Genesis 1:8**
And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

**Genesis 1:11–13**
And God said: ‘Let the earth put forth grass, herb yielding seed, and fruit-tree bearing fruit after its kind, wherein is the seed thereof, upon the earth.’ And it was so.
And the earth brought forth grass, herb yielding seed after its kind, and tree bearing fruit, wherein is the seed thereof, after its kind; and God saw that it was good.
And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

**Genesis 1:16–21**:
And God made the two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; and the stars.
And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,
and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good.
And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

And God said: ‘Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let fowl fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.’
And God created the great sea-monsters, and every living creature that creeps, wherewith the waters swarmed, after its kind, and every winged fowl after its kind; and God saw that it was good.
Genesis 1:23–25:
And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.
And God said: ‘Let the earth bring forth the living creature after its kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after its kind.’ And it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after its kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:27:
And God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.

Genesis 1:31:
And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:3:
And God blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it; because that in it He rested from all His work which God in creating had made.

Text #2: Genesis 1:26-27
And God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. They shall rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the cattle, the whole earth, and all the creeping things that creep on earth.” And God created man in His image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
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Creating the World

Draw a line from the day of the week to what God created on that day.

DAY ONE

DAY TWO

DAY THREE

DAY FOUR

DAY FIVE

DAY SIX

Shabbat