

PLAYFUL PLACE MATS

Ages 4–8

Since so many Jewish activities revolve around group meals and great food, personalized place mats are sure to get plenty of use. If your students are making place mats for themselves, let each of them design his or her own; if your class is making them for others, think of what sort of designs those people would like. You can also add the person's name in English or Hebrew.

If you'd like, design the place mats with specific holidays in mind; add symbols and pictures specific to that holiday (e.g., matzah for Passover, apples and honey for Rosh Hashanah).

WHAT YOU NEED:

Materials

- white posterboard (11' x 17")
- clear contact paper

Equipment

- crayons and markers (various colors)
- scissors

HOW IT'S DONE:

1. Using the crayons and markers, decorate the piece of posterboard.
2. Cut two pieces of contact paper slightly larger than the posterboard.
3. Unpeel one sheet of contact paper, and carefully lay it down on your work surface with the sticky side up.
4. Carefully lay your posterboard on the contact paper.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4, covering the other side of the posterboard with contact paper.
6. If necessary, trim the edges of the contact paper.
7. Use your place mat for your next meal!



HOW TO GROW A FAMILY TREE

Ages 7–13

Here's a project that combines the fun of drawing, coloring, cutting, and pasting with the fascinating subject of family connections. Making a family tree lets children chart their family and maybe even learn something about their ancestors.



WHAT YOU NEED:

Materials

- scrap paper
- green construction paper
- poster board

Equipment

- thin-tip black marker
- pencil and eraser
- crayons, markers, or paint (brown and green, plus other colors)
- glue stick

HOW IT'S DONE:

1. Choose a set of grandparents or great-grandparents to be the root of the tree (you can do separate trees for each set of grandparents).
2. On a piece of scrap paper, list all of the sons or daughters that came from your "root couple," along with the husbands or wives of those children. Then, next to each of the sons or daughters, list all of the children that each of the sons or daughters had. Continue this until you reach the youngest generation in your family.
3. With the green construction paper, cut out one small leaf-shaped piece (approximately 2 inches) for each name you have on your list. On each leaf, write the name of one person on your list, proceeding until you have made a leaf for everyone.
4. On your poster board, sketch a large tree (do it first in pencil in case you mess up). Start with a wide trunk at the base, which