

ETHIOPIAN AND RUSSIAN ALIYAH
Resources for Middle School and High School Students

Available at the Ratner Media and Technology Center
of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland

PRINT AND MULTI-MEDIA RESOURCES

ALIYA '90 – THE EXODUS OF THE JEWS FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO ISRAEL.
Tel Aviv: Beth Hatefutsoth, The Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora,
1990.

A photoessay from a Diaspora Museum exhibition depicting the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel, with black and white photographs taken in the USSR, Budapest, Vienna, and Israel. Written in English, Hebrew, and Russian.

THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE OF THE BOOK: A TRIBUTE TO ETHIOPIAN JEWS IN ISRAEL by Colette Berman and Yosef Miller. Los Angeles: Millhouse Publishers, 1988.

Dramatic black and white photographs are the highlight of this photoessay that chronicles the history and amazing survival of the Beta Israel.

FROM FALASHA TO FREEDOM: AN ETHIOPIAN JEW'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM
by Shmuel Yilma. Jerusalem: Gefen, 1996.

An illustrated autobiographical account of the author's trek "on foot across the great desert lying between Ethiopia and Sudan to get to the Land of Zion and Jerusalem, and end the more than two thousand years exile..." of his community.

HAOGDAN SHELANU: ARACHA BENOSEI ALIYAH VEKLEITAH. PhotoDidacti,
1989.

A set of ten posters with teacher's guide in Hebrew. The posters are self explanatory.

ISRAEL: THE LAND OF JEWS FROM ALL OVER WORLD by David Bianco. Los Angeles: Torah Aura, 1999. The History Of Israel series.

An "instant lesson" citing the Law of Return as both an act of generosity and an obligation of the Jewish state. Inequities in Israeli society between Jews from Europe and Jews from places like Morocco and Ethiopia are discussed.

THE JEWS OF ETHIOPIA: A PICTORIAL JOURNEY BACK TO THEIR PAST by Wolf Leslau with Colette Berman. Jerusalem: Millhouse, 2001.

Black and white photographs taken during Leslau's visits to Ethiopia between 1945 and 1970 depict the Beta Israel of the Gondar region. The sparse text is written in English, Hebrew and Amharic.

THE JEWS OF QUARA - COMING HOME. Cleveland, OH: JECC, 2000.

Background information, text study and classroom activities, and resources are included in this response curriculum developed by the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland.

JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND. Department for Torah Education and Culture in the Diaspora, 1992.

In addition to a video, this multimedia kit contains games, fact sheets and photos focusing on Operation Solomon, the Ethiopian immigration to Israel.

THE MOON IS BREAD by Naomi Samuel. Jerusalem: Gefen, 1999.

A biography of the author's husband, who struggled to reach Israel from Ethiopia, yearned for his family to join him, and coped with the fact that his dream of Israel and the reality of living there were not the same.

OPERATION SOLOMON by Glenn Stein. Los Angeles: Torah Aura, 1992.

This "instant lesson" is intended to give students an understanding of some of the difficulties the Ethiopian Jews encountered and endured during their wait in Addis Ababa, as well as an eyewitness account of the actual rescue mission.

THE RETURN by Sonia Levitin. New York: Atheneum, 1987.

A powerful novel, told through the eyes of a teenage girl, about the persecution of Ethiopian Jews, their flight from the country, and their dangerous attempt to reach Israel via Operation Moses.

THE STORYTELLER'S BEADS by Jane Kurtz. San Diego, CA: Gulliver/Harcourt Brace, 1998.

A story about two Ethiopian girls, one Jewish and one Christian, who overcome their fear and suspicion of one another as they make the hazardous trip from their famine-stricken homeland to a refugee camp in the Sudan.

<http://www.iaej.co.il/> Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews

<http://www.jafi.org.il/education/100/concepts/d2-2.html> Jewish Agency for Israel

www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/source/Judaism/ejhist.html Jewish Virtual Library

VIDEOS

COME HOME TO YOUR COUNTRY/A YEAR HAS PASSED. WZO, 1992, 6 minutes/20 minutes.

A video in two parts, one a song celebrating the dramatic return of many Jews to Israel and the second, a documentary showing the events that followed the opening of the Jewish Agency in Russia. The song is set to moving footage of the Ethiopian airlift, the Russian mass immigration, and scenes of Israel.

ETHIOPIAN JEWS. Jerusalem on Line, 1991, 30 minutes.

A magazine type program covering the dramatic airlift of 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel over a 24 hour period. The background of the mission is described and the emotional welcome of the Ethiopian Jews by Israelis is shown.

THE EXODUS CONTINUES. 1991, 10 minutes, color.

Contemporary music depicts moving scenes of Ethiopian and Russian Jews coming home to Israel. Useful for showing the promise of Israel, its importance to world Jewry, and the difficulties of immigration.

GESHO. National Film Board of Canada, 1995, 28 minutes, color. Children of Jerusalem series.

Gesho is one of 14,000 Ethiopian Jews who left northeast Africa during a massive Israeli rescue operation in 1991 for a new life in Israel. Thirteen-year old Gesho lives in a temporary community for new immigrants on the outskirts of Jerusalem. His older brother, Benjamin, who arrived seven years earlier, tells Gesho of his hardships and loneliness during the years of separation from the family. Now that Benjamin is fully integrated into Israeli society he is able to help Gesho pursue his dream of becoming a professional soccer player.

OPERATION EXODUS: THE MIRACLE CONTINUES. Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, 1993, 10 minutes.

The first half of this video concentrates on local efforts to resettle Russian Jews. The second segment is a powerful video montage that portrays the importance of supporting immigration. It is a good trigger about Zionism, Israel, and the vital mission of resettling Jews in the Jewish State.

OPERATION SOLOMON. Israel Foreign Ministry, 1991, 10 minutes.

Live footage of the historic airlift of thousands of Ethiopian Jews from Addis Ababa. The brief, fast paced film offers a look into the magnitude of the operation and includes several short comments from Israeli political figures.

QUARA JEWS: THE LAST JOURNEY. New York: Dept. of Marketing & Public Affairs Media Service, 1999. 4:15 minutes, color.

A stirring overview of the Quara Jews, Ethiopians from the primitive Quara region who were airlifted to Israel in 1999. They were part of the 3,800 Jews left behind when their fellow Jews emigrated to Israel during the last decade.

SAINT CLARA. New York: Kino, 1996. VHS, color, 85 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles.

An Israeli comedy about a Russian immigrant teenager whose powers of clairvoyance put her junior high school into an uproar.

THE SCHARANSKY SAGA. 15 min.

A compilation of news broadcasts of Natan Scharansky's wife's efforts to win her husband's release as well as clips of his aliyah to Israel.

SURVIVING SALVATION: ETHIOPIAN JEWRY IN ISRAEL. 1992, 40 minutes.

An exploration of the Ethiopian Jewish experience during modern times. The difficulties of surviving the Ethiopian civil war and adapting to late 20th century Israeli society are discussed. The video offers a positive example of how Israel acts as a refuge and defender of world Jewry and how the immigrant absorption process works in Israel.