

# Activities

## Activity 1

### *Getting to Know the Israeli People*

#### **Preparation:**

**Estimated Time:** One class period • **Materials:** DVD *Israel: Small Country, Big Ideas!* (slides 34-48); *Israel 101*

**Background:** As an introduction to Israel’s “rich, diverse and vibrant multicultural society,” the DVD has a vivid presentation of Israel’s diverse people and how they got to Israel. *Israel 101* has a picture collage of Israelis (page 41). In this activity, students will see the video and use this collage as a catalyst for identifying and discussing the different ethnic, religious and cultural groups in Israel.

#### **Activity:**

Show students the DVD *Israel: Small Country, Big Ideas!*, slides 34-48. Then ask students to look at the collage photos on page 41 of *Israel 101*. Have them discuss what each picture represents, how it captures the information on the DVD, and what it conveys about life in Israel.

Ask students:

- How does the collage reflect the cultural, geographic and human diversity of Israel? How much does this diversity resemble that of the U.S., France, England etc.? What are its unique characteristics?
- From top to bottom, left to right, identify the Israelis. How does their setting convey information about the contrasts of Israeli society—rural versus urban, modern versus traditional, young versus old. (Israel has the highest fertility rate of any advanced industrial nation. It is baby friendly.)

1. Two men playing backgammon at a flea market in Jaffa
2. Conductor of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Zubin Mehta
3. Jewish bride and groom
4. Bedouin in Bedouin hospitality tent in the Negev
5. Yeshiva students
6. Two ultra-religious Jews walking by traditional and modern Israeli-Arabs in Jerusalem’s Old City
7. A young Jewish soldier and girlfriend
8. Greek Orthodox priests
9. Two Israeli-Jewish girls: Ethiopian and Caucasian
10. Ethiopian children in a playground
11. Young, religious Jewish child
12. Israeli writer Amos Oz
13. Surfers on an Israeli beach
14. Israeli child picking flowers in a field
15. Azrieli Towers in Tel Aviv
16. Soccer players
17. A Tel Aviv sidewalk café with modern-style Israelis
18. A crowd of young Israelis on the beach

**Discussion:** Have students discuss how this information changes their image of Israelis. How would they answer the CNN producer (in the first discussion question on the previous page)? If they were asked to write a short essay describing Israelis, what would they say?

**Wrap-Up:** There are many different types of Jewish and non-Jewish Israelis who live in Israel, making it an ethnologist’s paradise. Although there are less than 7 million Israelis, this small country has tremendous human diversity.