

# WHAT IS TU B'SHEVAT?

The 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat, known as Tu b'Shevat, is the New Year for Trees.

Why do trees celebrate their New Year so much later than ours? It has to do with the rainy season in Israel, which starts on the festival of Sukkot. It takes four months for the rains to saturate the soil, nurture the trees and coax them into producing fruit.



We humans can also celebrate along with the trees.

After all, the Torah says, "Man is a tree of the field." We are nurtured by deep roots, as far back as Abraham and Sarah; we reach upwards to the heavens while standing firmly on the ground; and when we do all this right, we produce fruits that benefit the world—namely our good deeds.

## Traditional Observances:

Eat some fruit on this day. Best if you can get some of those fruits for which Israel is famous: olives, dates, grapes, figs and pomegranates.

## The blessing on fruit:

**בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ**

*Baruch Atah A-donay, Elo-heinu Melech ha'Olam borei pri ha-etz.*

[Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the tree.]

**If tasting a fruit for the first time in its season, recite the Shehecheyanu blessing before saying the fruit blessing:**

**בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהַחַיִּי וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנוּ הַזֶּה**

*Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech ha-olam she-heche-ya-nu ve-ki-yi-ma-nu ve-higi-a-nu liz-man ha-zeh.*

[Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.]

# STORY- PLANT FOR THE FUTURE

The old man watched with a satisfied smile as the cars drove in one by one to the far side of the apple orchard. He loved this time of year when the apples were hanging red and heavy on their branches, waiting to be picked, eaten and enjoyed, and when all the people came from miles around for their yearly outing.

He saw a green SUV, and watched as parents, kids, packages, bags, and a baby buggy came tumbling out. One of the kids, a girl of around 11, caught his eye, not because of her enthusiasm but rather, her extreme lack of it.

"Apple picking. Apple picking. Every year, boring apple picking," Nancy huffed. "What's wrong with the apples we buy in the shop? They're perfectly good. Why do we have to make this big trip every year for a few dumb apples?"



"Nancy, can you grab this bag please? Be careful, it has a thermos in it," said her mom.

Mrs. Krieger felt bad that her daughter was feeling so impatient and having such a rough time of it today. She had such fond memories of apple picking in this very same orchard back when she was a little girl and hoped to share it with her kids. But Nancy wanted no part of it.

It was taking forever for her parents to get everything organized, so Nancy started wandering around the orchard a little. She just wanted to finish fast and go home to join her friends, who were at the new ice cream shop that had just opened. Free ice cream as much as you can eat, all day, and here she was, stuck surrounded by these ridiculous apples. As she was walking, suddenly she came upon a sight that looked strange to her. She went over to take a closer look.

The old man, the orchard owner, was bending down over a flat of tiny apple-tree seedlings, picking up each one lovingly and placing it gently into neatly spaced holes already dug into the ground. Nancy snorted out loud as she watched him tamp the dirt around each sapling, like they were his babies or something. The man looked up at her and smiled.

"Beautiful, aren't they?" he said.

"Maybe," replied Nancy. "But how long will it be until they're big enough to make apples?"

"Oh to really produce? About 20 years, maybe more."

"Twenty years! Then what are you bothering for? Don't get offended mister, but let's face it, at your age," she paused as she took in his wrinkled face, "it doesn't really look like you'll be around to enjoy them, you know?"

The man smiled warmly again. "Right you are about that, young lady. Nothing lasts forever, does it. Even so, all these apples here that everyone is picking and enjoying were planted by my father and grandfather. They cared enough back then to plant for the future.

And look - with a little patience, the future came quick enough, didn't it. I hope these here saplings will provide lots of good fruit for my kids and grandkids, and whoever else might want to come and enjoy them."

Nancy was speechless. Nothing in her eleven years of life had prepared her (not counting the care and love of her parents, which she hadn't yet realized was a gift and not a given) for such a patient and unselfish outlook on life.

"Here, how'd you like to plant one, young lady?" the man said as he offered her one of the saplings. "Maybe one day you'll come back here and your kids can pick apples from 'your' tree."

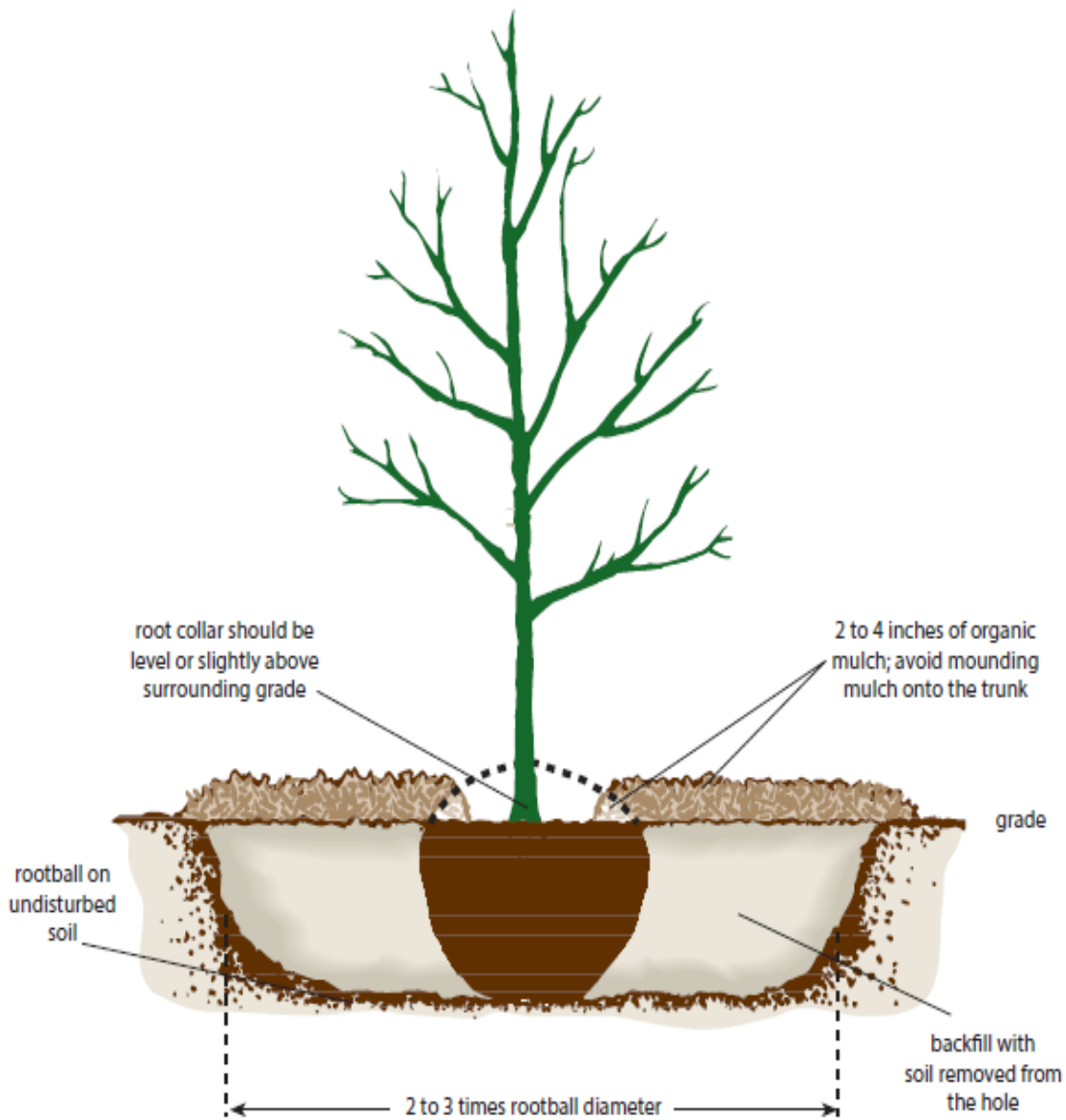
Nancy took it and felt surprisingly good as she placed it into the ground.

"Oh Nancy, there you are," said her mom, walking over. "I know you're in a rush to get home, so we'll try to hurry thing as much as we can."

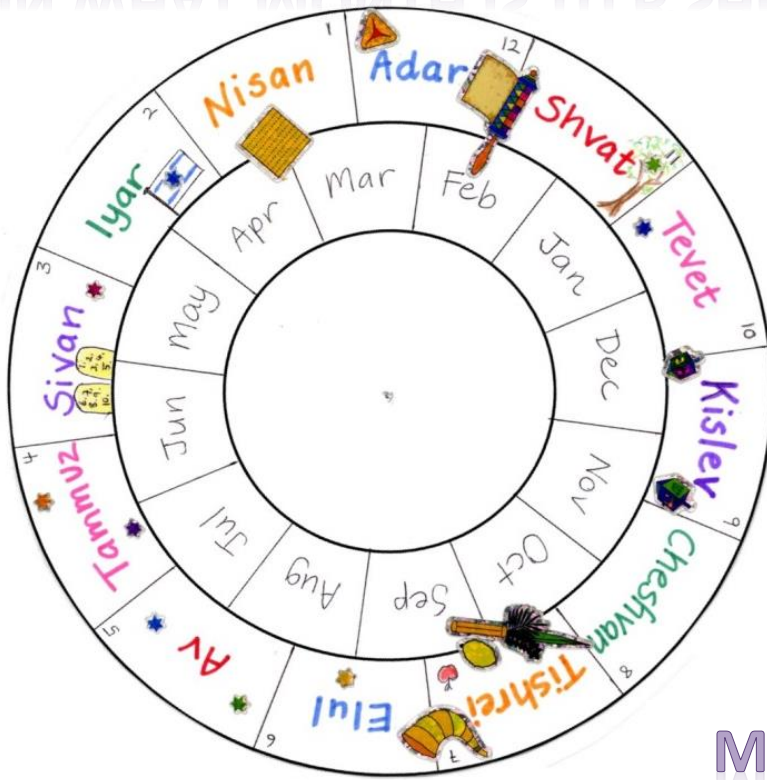
"No mom, it's okay," smiled the girl as she glanced at the old man, still patiently planting for the future, "I'm really happy we're spending this time together. There's no rush, after all. Don't all good things and good times, take time - to bear fruit?"



# HOW TO PLANT AN APPLE TREE



# IN WHAT MONTH IS TU B'SHEVAT



## MATCH ME UP



"THE BIRTHDAY OF THE TREES" IS WHAT TU B'SHEVAT IS SO, IN HONOR OF THE HOLIDAY, HERE'S A FUN LITTLE QUIZ! CAREFULLY LOOK OVER THIS PAGE FULL OF TREES AND FIND THE ONE THAT MATCHES ME, PLEASE!



# TU B'SHEVAT WORDSEARCH

ALL THESE WORDS HAVE TO DO WITH TU B'SHYAT. CAN YOU FIND AND CIRCLE THEM? (CAN APPEAR FORWARDS, BACKWARDS, ANGLED...)

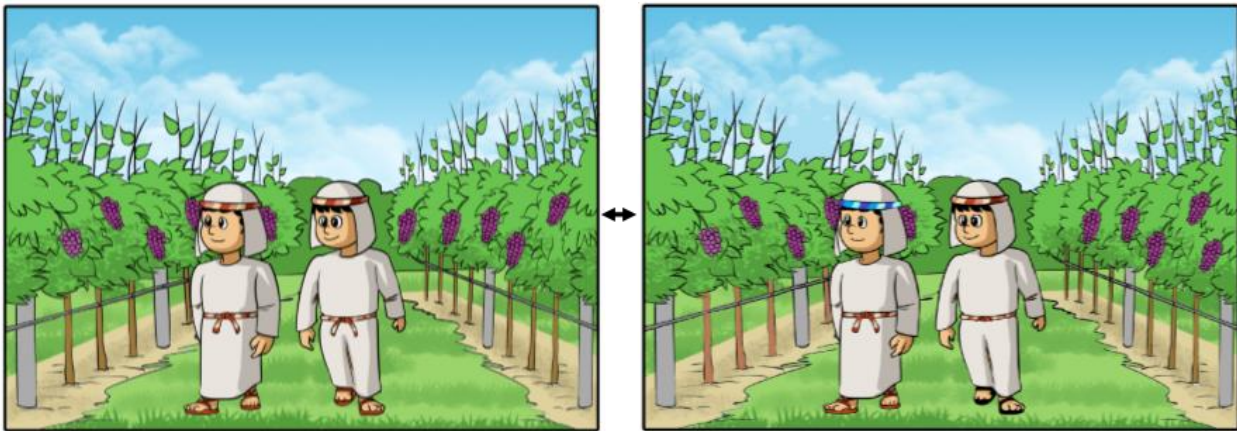
P	B	G	H	J	Q	S	E	E	R	T
Q	O	F	G	Y	E	L	R	A	B	J
W	K	M	F	K	R	P	S	X	O	W
E	S	D	E	E	W	I	D	C	L	H
R	E	R	S	G	I	F	F	V	I	E
T	R	A	A	L	R	U	G	S	V	A
Y	A	T	D	E	E	A	H	E	E	T
M	J	N	A	O	Y	Y	N	T	S	H
U	K	A	S	U	R	W	J	A	K	G
I	O	L	X	Y	T	T	E	D	T	F
S	E	P	A	R	G	R	K	N	P	E

**TREES**      **POMEGRANATE**  
**FIGS**      **NEW YEAR**  
**DATES**      **PLANT**  
**MAASER**      **WHEAT**  
**OLIVES**      **BARLEY**  
**BOKSER**      **GRAPES**

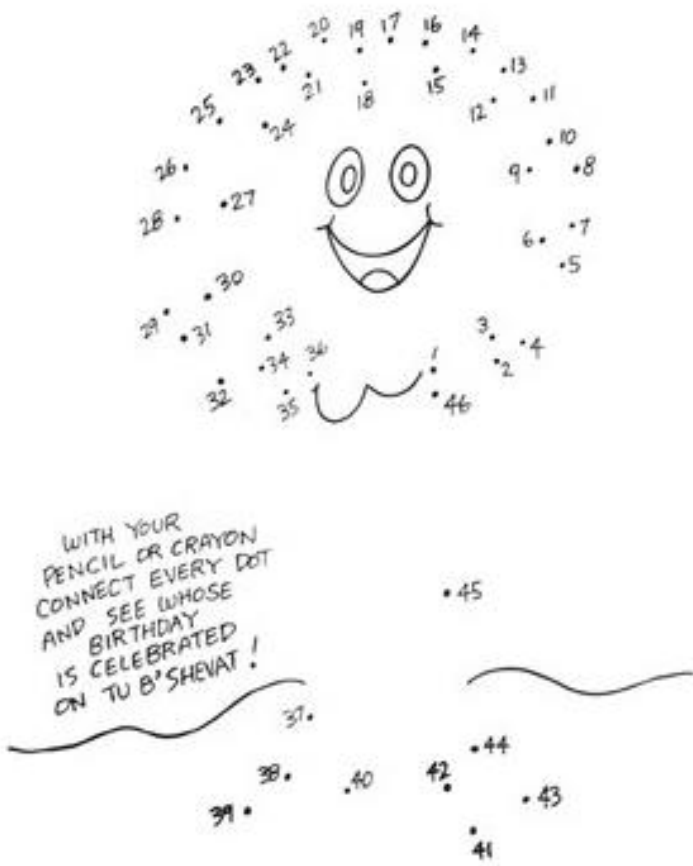
HOW MANY HEARTS CAN YOU COUNT ON THE TREE?



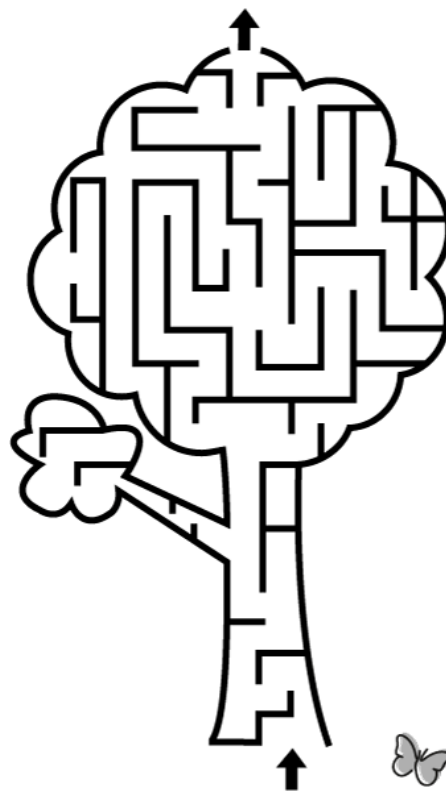
# CAN YOU FIND THE SIX DIFFERENCES?



## TU B'SHEVAT DOT TO DOT

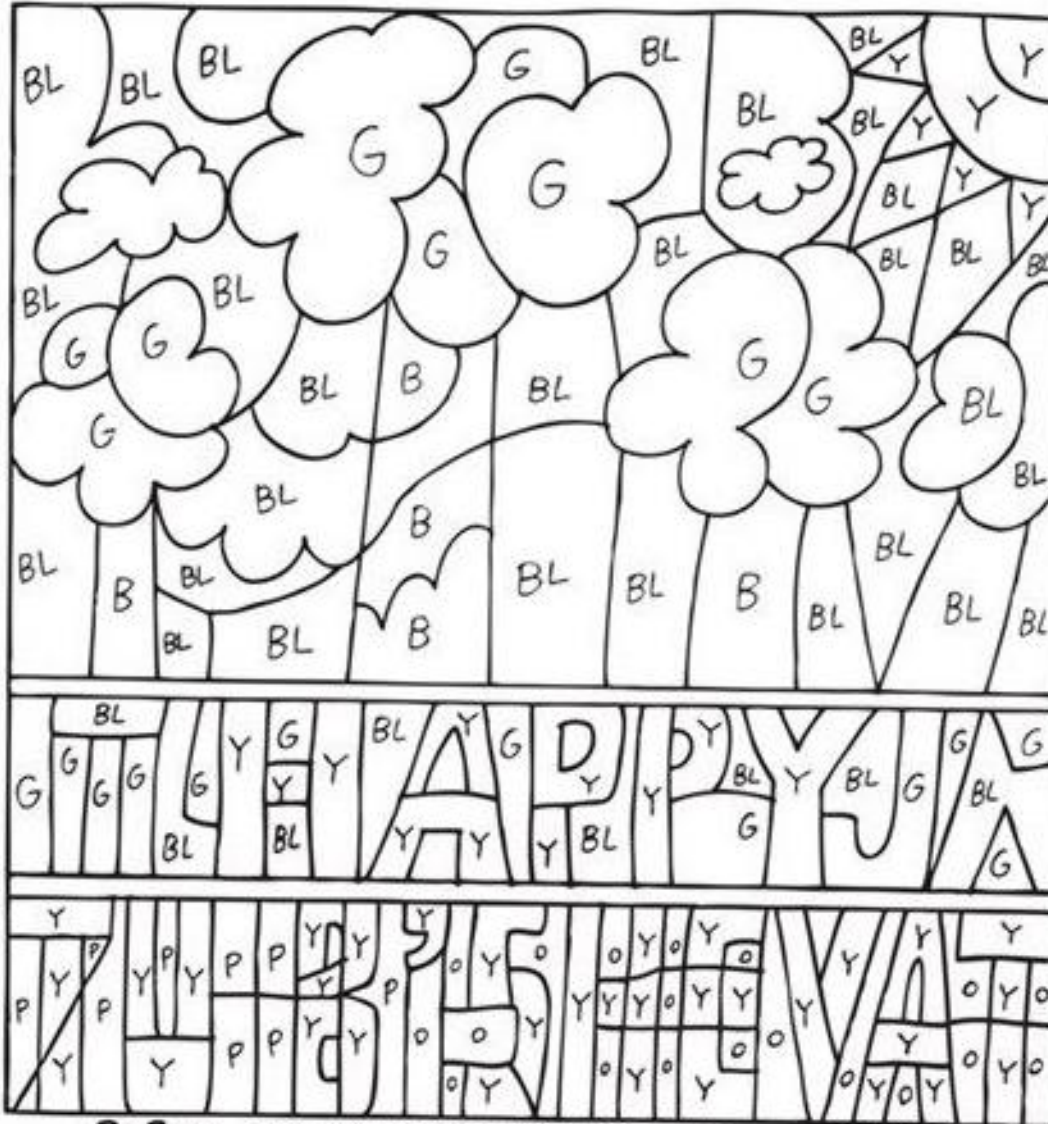


## CLIMB THE TREE



# COLOR BY NUMBER

COLOR THE SPACES USING THE COLOR CODE BELOW AND SEE THE SPECIAL MESSAGE. LEAVE THE BLANK SPACES WHITE!



R-RED O-ORANGE Y-YELLOW B-BROWN BL-BLUE  
G-GREEN P-PURPLE

WISHING YOU A TU B'SHVAT SAMEACH!  
FROM ALL OF US AT TRIBE