Jewish Culture: Jewish Farming and Environmentalism

Easy at-home Jewish learning from the ISJL

THE BIG IDEA: Farming is Jewish

For a long time, Jews were an agricultural people. While you may not think that tilling and tending the earth is specifically Jewish, Ariela Ronay-Jinich tells us all about the subject in a Bimbam video at the following link: https://www.bimbam.com/farming/

ARTICLE: Read and Reflect

The BBC put together an article to help explain Jewish philosophy and values regarding environmental issues. You can find that resource at the following link: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zfs3d2p/revision/1

ACTIVITY: Make an Upcycled Hanging Garden

As Jews, we are commanded to follow the Jewish value of *sh'mirat hateva* (guarding the earth and nature). One of the best ways we can protect the Earth is by reducing our use of single-use plastic, reusing and recycling single-use bottles, and adapting the material for a new purpose. Follow the instructions to create your own upcycled hanging garden at the following link: http://moomah.com/themagazine/make-it-vertical-hanging-garden

MAKE IT: Fruit-Based Art

Take a look in the refrigerator and you will see plenty of fruits and vegetables that might go straight to the wastebasket or compost because you did not eat them before they started to become moldy. An important aspect of environmentalism is celebrating the vibrancy of natural resources. Read the first paragraph of a Recycle Nation article found at the following link: https://recyclenation.com/2015/04/how-to-make-dyes-paints-from-plants/

Afterwards, use mashed-up raspberries and blueberries to paint an artistic piece that illustrates an important Jewish moment you've experienced in nature. After finishing, find a place to display your art at home or take a picture and share it online. Make sure you tag @theISJL!