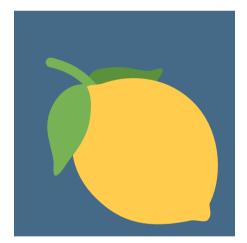




Parsha Ninja IN THE SUCCAH





SUCCOT:

Also known as the Festival of the Tabernacles









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WHAT IS SUCCOT?

Succot is the holiday that begins two weeks after Rosh Hashana, on the 15th day of Tishrei. The holidays lasts seven days inside of the Israel, and eight days everywhere else.

We celebrate Succot for two reason:

- 1. The autumn harvest was completed during this time of year. The crops were all harvested and it was time to celebrate another successful year in the fields. Other names for Succot are also Chag Ha'asif (the festival of the harvest) and Zman Simchateinu (A time of our happiness).
- 2. The holiday of Succot also commemorates the time that the Jewish nation spent walking in the desert. Have you ever considered where the nation lived while they were traveling through the desert for all those years? They lived in small huts or temporary homes that they built using what they had, including branches and palm leaves, and so today, we celebrate Succot by building ourselves a temporary home, called a Succah.

CELEBRATING SUCCOT



Building a succah can be quite fun! The basic rules of building a succah are:

- 1. It must have at least three walls.
- 2. The roof must be made from s'chach, which is something that grew from the ground (many people use bamboo and palm leaves).
- 3. The roof must totally cover the top of the succah, but at the same time, it's important to be able to see the night stars through the roof of the succah.

Many people decorate their succah by hanging handmade projects or store-bought decorations. Some also hang flowers, fruits and wreaths in their succah.

The Torah tells us to live in the succah for a full week. Many people eat breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus all their snacks in the succah, all week long.

Many people also have the custom of inviting guests to their succah to share a meal, and some people even have the custom of sleeping in the succah too!

SHAKING THE LULAY

Aside from eating in the succah, shaking the lulav is one of the most exciting parts of Succot. But what is a **lulav**? And what about its friend, the **etrog**?



Let's start with the etrog.



The **etrog** kind of looks like a lemon, but is really a different fruit called a **citron**. Be sure to smell the **etrog**, because they smell fantastic.

The **lulav** refers to three different plants put together: a palm branch, willow and myrtle. In Hebrew, the **palm branch** is called a *lulav*, (even though the whole thing together is called a lulav too!). The Hebrew word for **willows** is **aravot** and the Hebrew word for **myrtles** is **hadasim**. Taken together, all three pieces make up the lulav, and together with the etrog, are shaken each day of Succot.

Shaking the lulav is done the same way each day - except on Shabbat, when we don't shake it at all. Pick up the etrog in your left hand and the lulav in your right hand. Hold the lulav so the dark green line down the middle of it is facing you. The hadasim will be on your right side and the aravot will be on your left. Once you are holding the lulav and the etrog, make this bracha: *Baruch atah Hashem, elokeiynu melech haolam, asher kidishanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al netilat lulav.* On the first day of Succot, we also make the sh'hecheyanu bracha. After you finish the brachot, it's time for the fun part - shaking the lulav and etrog. Shake them in every direction - forward, left, back, right, up & down.

THE USHPIZIN

The Ush-what?

Ushpizin is the Aramaic word for guests. A big part of Succot is inviting guests into your succah, but another special way of inviting guests are by inviting the ushpizin, our biblical forefathers and other important biblical charachters. The Ushpizin are: Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov, Moshe, Aharon, Yosef and David, and each night, we invite one of them to join us in our succah.

Here's a funny song we sing every year on Succot (be sure to sing it to the tune of the John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt song):

Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov and Moshe, Aharon, Yosef, David. That's who we invite, every Succot night, these are the seven ushpizin, lalalalala...



Decorating the succah is one of the highlights of the whole holiday. Pretty much everyone likes to get involved - and everyone can, from the youngest family members to the oldest. Perhaps not everyone should climb the ladder to hang the decorations, but making the actual decorations are half the fun.

Take a look at these DIY succah decoration ideas and have fun coming up with your own too!

Waterproof Foam Chain
Hanging Perler Bead Fruit
Sharpie and Paint Decorations
Family Picture Bunting





WATERPROOF FOAM CHAINS

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

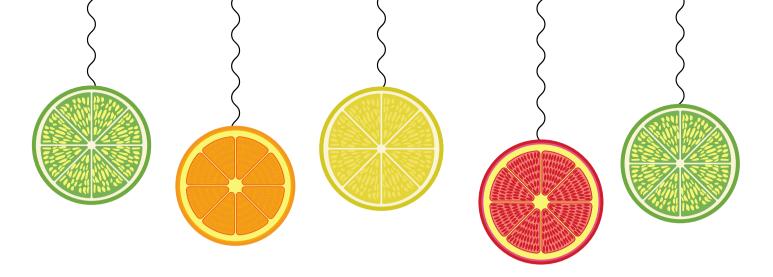
Scissors Foam Sheets Stapler Paper chains are the quintessential Succah decoration. They're generally constructed from colored paper and either tape or staples. However, anyone who has ever made one of these chains knows exactly what happens once it starts to rain... The beautiful paper chains turn soggy, and almost seem to melt while their bright colors start to run

down the sides of the succah and onto tableclothes. It's a rare Succot where paper chains can be reused from the year before.

Making Succah decorations chains from foam craft sheets instead of paper changes everything. The foam sheets are waterproof, sturdier than paper and are just as easy to use. They are the same foam that is used to make the Foamies letters and shapes that kids love to stick everywhere. The foam we used came in sheets and was about \$6 for a package of 40 large sized sheets, so very affordable.

If you remember how to make a paper chain, you likely will not need these directions. But if you need a refresher, here you go:

- 1. Cut the sheets into strips, width-wise. Each strip should be 1.5-2" wide.
- 2. Twist one strip into a circle, and staple the two ends together.
- 3. Take a second strip, slip it through the first foam ring, twist the strip into a circle and staple the two ends together.
- 4. Repeat with as many strips needed to form a chain as long as you'd like to hang in the succah. Make the chains all one color, use them in a pattern of colors or just in random order. Tie ribbon to the ends of the chain and hang in the succah.



HANGING PERLER BEAD FRUITS

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Assorted Perler Beads
Round Perler Bead
Pegboard(s)
Iron (adult only)
parchment paper
needle and thread

Have you ever played with Perler Beads before?

If not, you should. They are a lot of fun, and keep kids (and grownups) of all ages occupied for hours. You can learn more about them at Perler.com but they are also available on Amazon, and at Target and Walmart.

(Please note: only you know your kids, but these are really for the age 6+ set.)

To make the fruits, follow the photos on the next page, using green beads for the lime, yellow for the lemon, orange for the orange and pink for the grapefruit - and white for all the fruits where appropriate. The same basic format works for all the fruit varieties.

Place a piece of parchment paper over each completed fruit, and use a heated iron to gently heat the beads, slowly moving the iron around (grownups only please!). Once the beads have fused, gently peel the paper off the beads and allow the fruits to cool before removing from the pegboard.

Once all the fruits are made, thread a needle with some thread and push the needle through one of the beads on the outermost second row of the fruit. Tie the thread off, in a loop. Hang the fruits in the succah by attaching a longer ribbon to the thread.

Step #1:
Place one white
bead in the center
and six more
around it.

Step #2: Use white beads to make a starfish shape, leading away from the center.

Step #3:
Use yellow beads
(lemon) to fill in the
spaces between the
white lines, leaving one
at the end empty.













Step #4: Continue using yellow beads to fill all the spaces except for the last row of pegs.

Step #5: Use white beads to finish off the lemon, filling in the whole outer ring of the pegboard.

Tip:
The beads generally come all mixed up. It's helpful to pull out the ones you need before starting to place them on the board.

THE MAGIC OF SHARPIE MARKERS

Raise your hand if you're the proud owner of a fabric succah?
We are too! And one year, the plain, unadorned sections of fabric became too
empty, too blank - and the time to redecorate had arrived.
And we did. For free! Grab all your Sharpie markers, the more colors the

And we did. For free! Grab all your Sharpie markers, the more colors the better and head outside. Sharpies glide beautifully over the fabric, and also embody the magic word of Succot: waterproof.

We chose to draw a Jerusalem mural, but whatever images bring joy to your and your family will work just as well. Start by outlining your mural in black Sharpie and use the other colors to fill in the shapes.

Attention Hard-Sided Succah Owners:
We've got you covered too.
Turn the page to find out how.







PAINT THAT-SUCCARL

OKAY, HARD-SIDED SUCCAH OWNERS.

Grab a black Sharpie, a few paintbrushes and some paint.

Outline your mural with a black Sharpie.

Fill in the shapes with a paintbrush, paint and a steady hand. Or a non-steady hand and all your kids. Depending on your mess-tolerance level, the kids can do the painting all on their own. Just dress everyone for a mess, and lay a tarp out on the ground. Not only will your kids forever remember painting their succah, you will all be able to enjoy your handiwork for years to come.

WONDERING HOW TO MAKE THE LETTERING?

Open a new Google doc or Word document. Type out the letters of your words (your family name? Welcome? Next Year in Jerusalem?) in the largest point size available - my computer topped out at 999. Print out the letters on colored printer paper. Carefully cut out each letter, and using Mod Podge or another heavy-duty and waterproof glue, adhere the letters to the walls. Once the letters are dry, use a clean paintbrush and paint a coat of the same glue over each of the letters and let them dry fully before touching them.

Pro tip: Only do this when the three day forecast looks sunny and bright.

(Don't be us. Watch your Hebrew letters - the daled and reish look mighty similar!)







OUR TWO BIGGEST SUCCAH DECORATING *** HACKS***

We can't speak for everyone, but in our house, the most frustrating part of decorating the succah has always been the pieces of string that are connected to almost every single succah decoration - store bought or homemade, because how else can all these decorations hang in the succah without string? They strings are always either too short or too flimsy to actually tie together. We were so tired of getting tiny bamboo splinters from the sc'ach or cutting and attaching new string every year - so instead, we started using **PIPE CLEANERS!** Every single string, attached to every one of our decorations, now has a pipe cleaner twisted onto it. The pipe cleaners can be twisted around the succah poles or the wood that criss-crosses the top of the succah and holds up the sc'ach. Hanging decorations and taking them down has now become the opposite of a dreaded chore.

Aside from PIPE CLEANERS, we have one more exciting word for you: CLOTHESPINS. Through trial and error, we've learned that pretty much anything that cannot be hung with a pipe cleaner, can be hung with a clothespin. Just tie some sturdy rope or twine from one succah pole to a second succah pole (along a wall, not across the succah). Add clothespins to the line, as if you were actually hanging laundry. Except instead of socks, hang all the flat, laminated decorations that your kids bring home from school. Just line them up in a row, stick a clothespin to each one and it'll be just like having a decoration train hanging against the wall of your succah.

Which brings us to the next decoration (turn the page, please).

FAMILY PICTURE BUNTING

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
scissors
glue
twine
colored paper
family pictures

Hanging family pictures in the succah is always fun, especially for kids because who doesn't like to see special pictures of themselves hanging where everyone can ooh and ah over them?

But first, let's just be very clear: DO NOT USE ORIGINAL PICTURES. Please, please, only use doubles here. These will get rained on. And it's even though it's likely that nothing will happen to them, even if they do get wet (ours have been going

strong for five years, through torrential downpours, but still). Please, please don't use originals. Thank you for understanding.

To make the bunting: paste each photo onto a piece of colored paper that is slightly larger than the photo, creating a frame around the picture. Tie the end of a length of twine to one succah pole (about shoulder height on a ten-year-old) and the other end to the other succah pole (against a wall, not across the succah). Use clothespins to clip each picture to the twine. Stand back and admire your gorgeous family.





Setting a beautiful table in our temporary outdoor homes can be a lot of fun. Many people purchase colorful paper goods to set their table, while other bring out special dishware that they save especially for Succot. Whichever way you choose to set your table, your guests - and your family - are sure to have an enjoyable time.

Take a look at these DIY table ideas, and perhaps you'd like to make one - or all - to enhance your Succot table!



Succot Napkin Rings
Hand-Stamped Tablecloth
Handmade Tile Trivet
Which Cup is Mine?
Popsicle Stick Succah Centerpiece



DISPOSABLE NAPKIN HOLDERS

These napkin holders could not get any easier.

Print. Color. Cut. Tape.

Print them on cardstock.

Color them in. Cut them out.

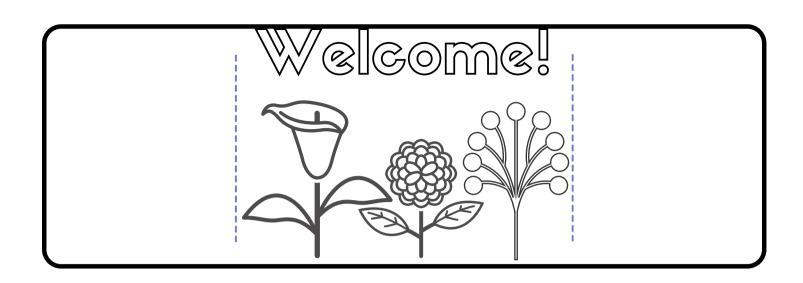
Fold on the dotted line, tape at the back.

Slip the napkin and utensils inside, and set the table!

These work best with standard 6"x6" napkins, folded in half, but any napkin can be folded to fit.







Hello! We're so glad you're here!



TABLECLOTH STAMPING

***In case you missed this project in the ParshaNinja Sefer Devarim: Parshat Ki Tavo book, here it is again, for Succot.

Parshat Ki Tavo talks about the bikurim or the first fruits. And while Succot celebrates the end of the harvest season, fruits are a running theme through Succot as well.***

HOW TO:

- 1. Wash and iron the tablecloth or canvas.
- 2. Spread the cloth out on the floor, or if you'd like to do this project outside, lay it out on the ground.
- 3. Cut several apples in half, like this:
- 4. Pour small amounts of red, green and yellow paint onto plates, one color per paper plate.
- 5. Using a foam brush, paint the cut side of an apple and press the apple onto the tablecloth or canvas.
- 6. Repeat in a pattern or in a random order all over the tablecloth or canvas.
- 7. Keep stamping, using all three apple colors.
- 8. Allow the paint to fully dry. Once dry, use the black Sharpie to draw seeds in the center of each apple, and a stem from the top of the apple. The green Sharpie can be used to draw leaves.
- 9. Bonus: Use the Sharpie to have all your artists sign their names to the tablecloth and be sure to date the tablecloth too with the current year.
- 10. Allow everything to dry for 24 hours and then wash the tablecloth or canvas on cold and then run it through the dryer. Pro tip: Don't wash or dry it with anything else in the washer or dryer.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- non-washable craft paint (red, green, yellow)
- three foam paint brushes
- paper plates
- white tablecloth or canvas dropcloth
- black and green Sharpie markers
- several apples, halved





HANDMADE TILE TRIVETS

(two ways)

Both methods start with a 12"x12" plain white tile. These can be found in any home improvement store for as little as a dollar.

Method #1 will need:
Bag of mini craft store tiles
heavy-duty glue stick

- 1. Start by thinking of a few design ideas for the trivet. Play around with the tiles, seeing how they fit onto the large tile.
- 2. Once you are satisfied with the design, glue one tile at a time onto the larger tile, covering as much of the larger tile as possible.
 - 3. Allow the glue to dry for 24 hours.
- 4. The trivet is ready to be used. Keep it on the succah table, ready to hold a hot tray of yummy food.
- 5. Trivet can be wiped with a damp cloth if dirty, but should not washed in the sink or the dishwasher.

Method #2 will need:
Various colored Sharpies
Pencil with an eraser

- 1. Start by thinking of a few design ideas for the trivet.
- 2. Lightly sketch out the design with a pencil, directly onto the tile.
- 3. Using a black Sharpie, trace the pencil lines.
- 4. Allow the Sharpie to dry for a few minutes and then erase the pencil marks.
- 5. Fill in the design with the colored Sharpies. Allow the colors to dry for 24 hours.
- 6. The trivet is ready to be used. Keep it on the succah table, ready to hold a hot tray of yummy food.
- 7. Trivet can be wiped with a damp cloth if dirty, but should not washed in the sink or the dishwasher.

WHICH CUP IS MINE?

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- 12 wide colorful rubber bands
- set of 12 washable or disposable cups
- skinny black Sharpie
- craft glue
- 60 mini craft gems or sequins

#firstworldsuccahproblems

How often do you find that absolutely no one knows which cup belongs to which person at the table - especially after some people have gone off to play, and return for dessert? Can we say, All The Time?

This project works for disposable cups or washable cups, and make 12 cup ID bands.

- 1. Make a list of the names of your guest at a particular meal.
- 2. Using the Sharpie, write each person's name on a rubber band. Let the Sharpie ink dry for a minute.
- 3. Glue 5 craft gems or sequins onto each rubber band, being careful not to cover the names.
- 4. When it's time to eat, bring the bands out to the succah, and slip them around each cup. These can be used over and over again, over Succot (and during the year!), plus they can also be used as place cards for your table.

(Tip: we like the Tulip brand extra wide rubber bands - available on Amazon, at Walmart, Michaels or your favorite craft store.





CRAFT STICK SUCCAH CENTERPIECE

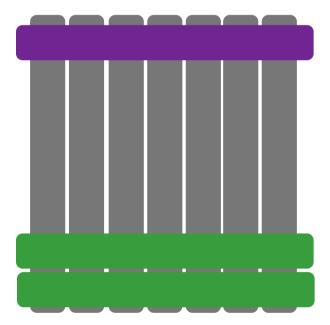
WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

wooden craft sticks assorted markers craft glue green construction paper scissors

- 1. Color 10 craft sticks per wall.
- 2. Glue each wall together (see below), and when they are dry, attach one wall to the next with glue.
- 3. Color 6 craft sticks brown and 6 green.
- 4. Lay them across the 'succah' like sc'ach.
- 5. Cut small leaves from the green paper and lay them across the top.

6. Bonus: bring some Lego people out to the succah for the week - they can live inside the craft stick succah!





TO BUILD EACH WALL:

- 1. Lay seven craft sticks on a covered table (see gray sticks above).
- 2. Glue two craft sticks horizontally, towards the bottom of the seven craft sticks. (see green sticks above).
- 3. Glue one craft stick across the top (see purple stick above).
- 4. Let dry before attaching all three walls together.

CHOL HAMOED AND HOSHANA RABBA

SO WHAT IS CHOL HAMOED?

Chol Hamoed are the days between the first two days of Succot and the last two days (outside of Israel), which are called Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. (In Israel, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are celebrated together, on one day.)

Often, kids will have off from school on Chol Hamoed, and families might take fun day trips together. However, lots of kids do have school over Chol Hamoed, and in that case, there's a good chance that there will be lots of fun activities going on in school on those days.

If this is not what Chol Hamoed looks like in your house, that's totally okay too. Some parents are not able to take off from work on Chol Hamoed and not all schools offer extra activities. Whatever your family does is the right thing for you, at the right time.

AND HOSHANA RABBA?

The 7th day of Succot is called Hoshana Rabba. It is on this day that Hashem determines how much rain will fall in the land of Israel for the coming year. Since Israel is really located in a desert climate, it needs all the rain it can get, and so we spend the morning of Hoshana Rabba praying for rain.

Some people have the custom of reading the entire sefer Devarim on the evening of Hoshana Rabba, and many stay up all night learning Torah, just like on Shavuot.

Hoshana Rabba is the last day when we bless the lulav and etrog. During shacharit on Hoshana Rabba, everyone takes the aravot part of the lulav and beats them on the floor while saying a special tefilla or prayer. In Yiddish, this is called "klopping hoshanas". Afterwards, it's important to respectfully discard the aravot, as they are still holy.

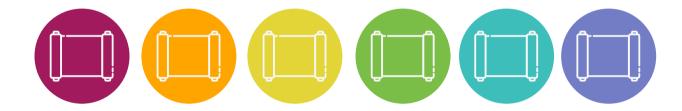
Hoshana Rabba is a day like Chol Hamoed, where all everyday activities are permitted.



WHAT IS SHEMINI ATZERET?

Shemini Atzeret is the day after Hoshana Rabba. Shemini Atzeret is special because it's on this day that we pray the Tefillat Geshem - the prayer for rain in the Land of Israel. The winter - between Succot and Pesach - is when Israel receives all the rain it will have for the entire year.

Both Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are days of chag, just like the first two days of Succot.



WHAT IS SIMCHAT TORAH?

Simchat Torah is the last day of holy days that are attached to Succot. Simchat Torah is the day we mark the end of the Torah readings for that year - at this point we have gone through all the parshiot of the Torah and are about to start the next cycle of reading, beginning again from the first parsha, called Bereishit.

Simchat Torah is a day of much fun and celebration in shul/synagogue and at home with family and friends. Turn the page for a few fun and easy Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah ideas!

SHEMINI ATZERET RAIN STICKS

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- empty cardboard tubes from rolls of paper towels
- assorted washi tapes
- dried beans
- scrapbook paper
- rubber bands

- 1. Start by covering the cardboard tube with different colors of washi tape.
- 2. Cut two 5" circles out of the scrapbook paper. Cover one end of the cardboard tube with a paper circle. Secure tightly with a rubber band.
- 3. Drop five beans into the open end of the tube.
- 4. Cover the other end of the tube with the second circle, securing it with a rubber band.
- 5. Shake your rain stick, while dancing and then see below for more ways to use it.

WASHI TAPE



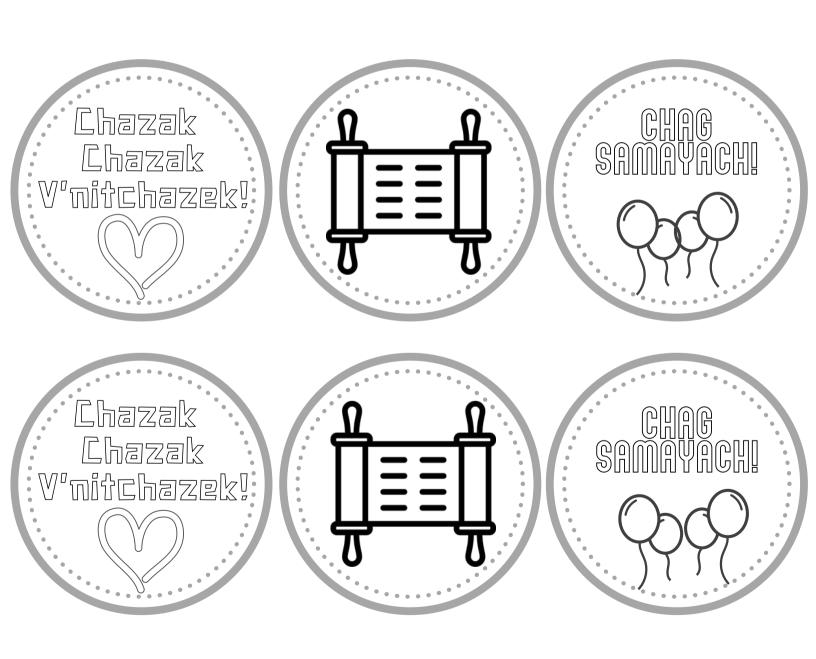
WHY A RAIN STICK?

Shemini Atzeret is the day we pray for an abundant rainy season in Israel, with the prayer called Tefillat Geshem, literally, the prayer for rain. Israel isn't the only country that has to be careful with it's water usage. We'd all do well to be careful about not wasting water - and a shaking a rain stick around is always fun when it comes to dancing a living room rain dance.

At the same time, this rain stick can do double duty as a talking stick. Any time there's more than one child in the house, everyone talking at once - and no one being heard - is fairly common. So new dinner rule: each person gets to tell everyone else about their day - while holding the talking stick. When one person's turn is up, pass the stick to the next person. This way everyone can feel heard and valued in their own home.

SIMCHAT TORAH DESSERT TOPPERS

Sefer Devarim ends with this the parsha called V'zot Ha'bracha. The reading of V'zot Ha'bracha always coincides with the holiday of Simchat Torah. Just print, color, cut and attach these circles to toothpicks or straws cut to size with a piece of tape and insert them into cupcakes, muffins, a larger cake or even a parfait.



FOR TWELVE TOPPERS, PRINT THIS PAGE TWICE.

FUN SIMCHAT TORAH IDEAS CHOCOLATE LOLLIES

Pick up a few plastic chocolate molds in torah shapes (Amazon Prime for the win, again!), plus a bag of lollipop sticks. Melt some chocolate, add the sticks and let the chocolate harden. Pop out the chocolates and you'll be set with an assortment of torah lollipops to share with your kids on Simchat Torah. They make a fun dessert or hostess gift.

(TIP: ON AMAZON.COM, TYPE IN: TORAH CHOCOLATE LOLLIPOP MOLDS)



While you're already ordering the chocolate lollipop molds, add a few plain drawstring bags to the cart. Use Sharpies to decorate the bags and use the bags on Simchat Torah to help kids collect the copious amounts of candy and prizes that seem to be given out that night and the next morning. Hey, having a bag to hold everything beats watching your kids shove it all into their mouths at once. This may just get them to pace themselves.

(TIP: ON AMAZON.COM, TYPE IN: SMALL BURLAP DRAWSTRING BAGS)

SIMCHAT TORAH HOTDOGS

At this point, Succot is pretty much over, you're all cooked-out and the idea of cooking another meal is making your head hurt. Good thing it's Simchat Torah, when most synagogues serve some sort of elaborate kiddush at night, and the next morning, when the tefillot last a very long time. But often, the festivities don't begin until pretty late at night and the kids are hungry. If you plan ahead and put together a tray of 'franks in blankets' before the chag, you'll be thanking yourself later. Be sure to bake every two mini hotdogs right next to each other, so they stick together while baking - and look, each set looks like a mini Torah!

Chag Samayach! With Love, the ParshaNinja Family

IN CASE YOU MISSED THESE OTHER HOLIDAYS:



follow us on Instagram @jenwiseart
To purchase other holiday packs, please
emailjenwiseart@gmail.com