

# Yom Ha'atzmaut Tanakh Scavenger Hunt

Students will explore Eretz Yisrael from its biblical roots to the modern day State of Israel in this fun and engaging activity.

**Recommended grade level:** 5th-9th

**Length:** 40-60 minutes

**Materials:** Printouts of the worksheet pages, access to a Tanakh - printed or digital. Optional - translation of Tanakh excerpts, access to digital research tools.

\*the worksheets are offered in two versions: English and Hebrew (עברית קלה)

## **Suggested Lesson Plan:**

Introduction (10 minutes): **Ask** students to pick a place that is important to them, and give them a moment to **think** about the story their place tells. **Allow** a few students to share briefly. Then, give students 90 seconds to think of as many places in Israel that they can. They can **write** their answers individually or collaboratively on the board. **Explain** they will now have the opportunity to explore some of the key places in Israel and think about the stories behind each location.

Activity (20-30 minutes): Divide students into small groups and give each group one page of the worksheet. Students will work together to look up, read, and summarize their section in the Tanakh. Each group will identify one city based on their text, find the location on the map, and consider its significance in the Tanakh and today. The worksheet will serve as a basis for a short presentation for each group to share what they learned with the class.

Wrap-up (10-15 minutes): In a class discussion or a journal prompt, ask students to reflect on the different stories that they heard. What makes each of these places more than just a pin on a map? In what way do the stories behind each location impact our personal connection to the land of Israel? And, how does knowing more about that place make them feel about their story in Tanakh?

## **Options and Opportunities:**

- Provide additional text options for advanced students
- Print a large map to display in the classroom, and have each group pin their location on this map as well
- Challenge students to find pictures of these places in modern Israel and create a collage
- Older students can work in pairs and complete multiple worksheets

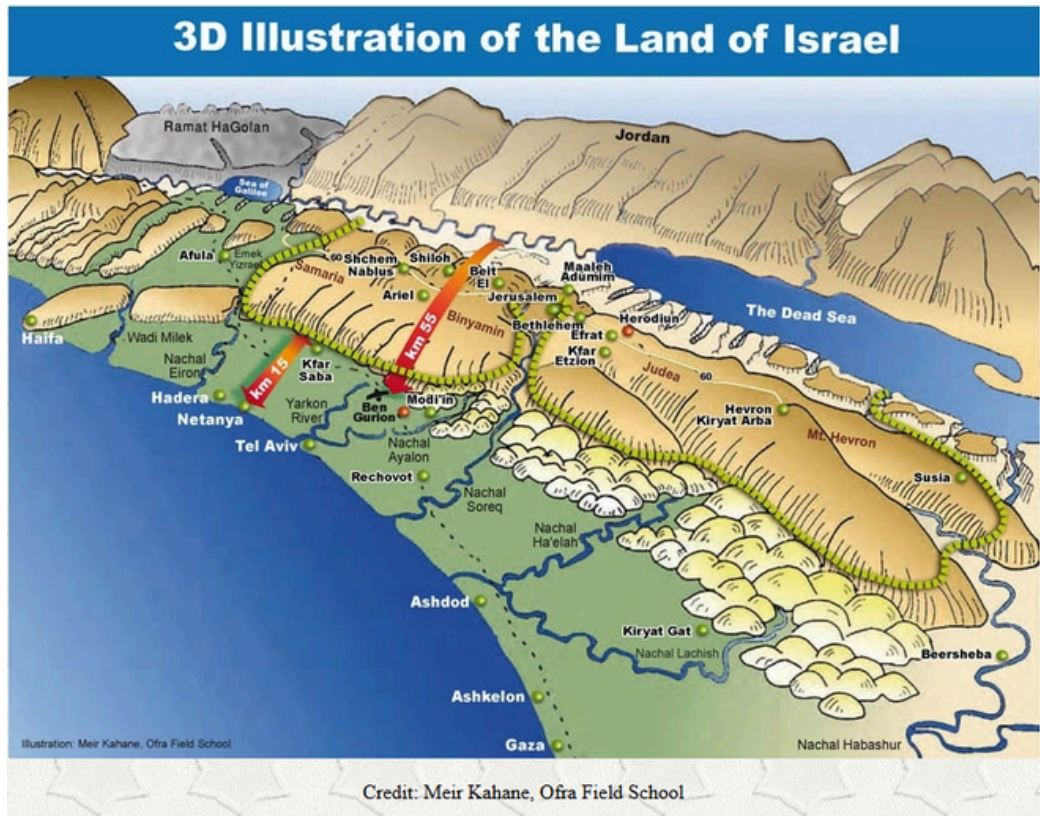
## **Location Guide:**

Group A - Jerusalem; Group B - Kiryat Arba/Hevron; Group C - Be'er Sheva; Group D - Bet El; Group E - Shechem; Group F - Rechovot

### Melachim I 8:1-11

Find the reference in the Tanakh and read the entire section together as a group.

1. Identify the city mentioned in the text:  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Mark the location on the map.



3. In 1-2 sentences, summarize the event described in the text:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why is this an important location geographically? Consider what you observe on the map above.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. List two facts about this location in **modern** Israel:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

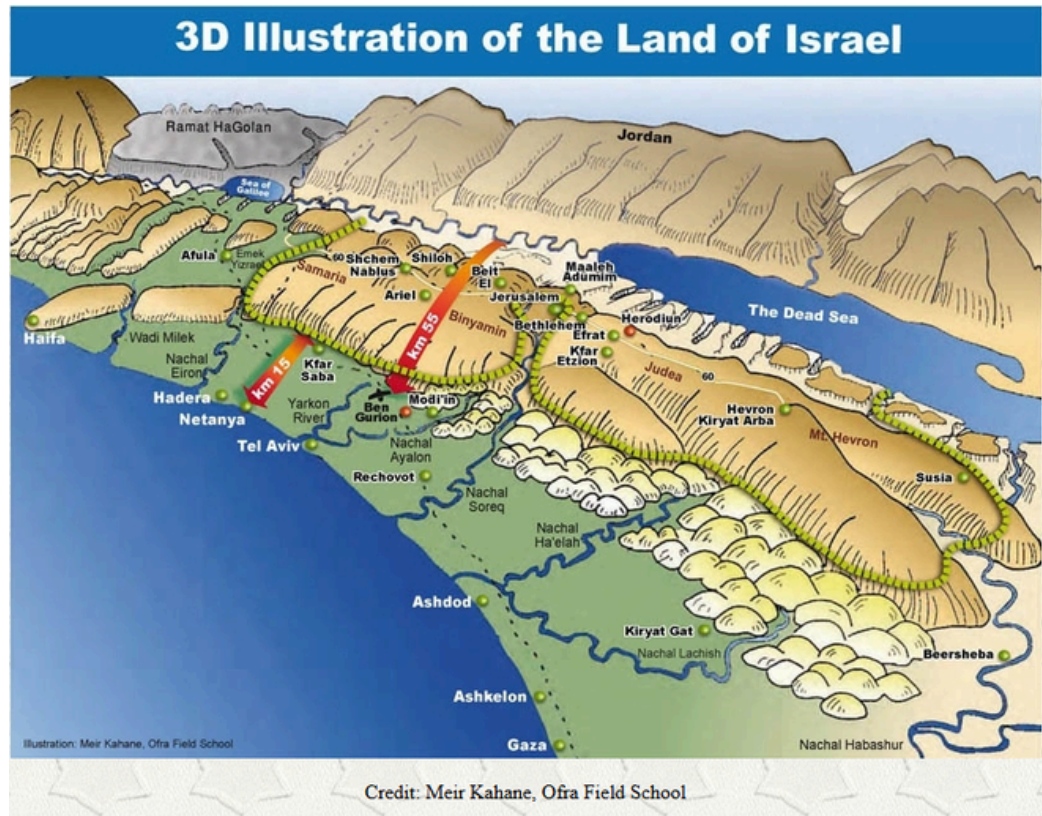
**Bereishit 23:1-20**

Find the reference in the Tanakh and read the entire section together as a group.

1. Identify the city mentioned in the text:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Mark the location on the map.



3. In 1-2 sentences, summarize the event described in the text:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why is this an important location geographically? Consider what you observe on the map above.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. List two facts about this location in **modern** Israel:

\_\_\_\_\_

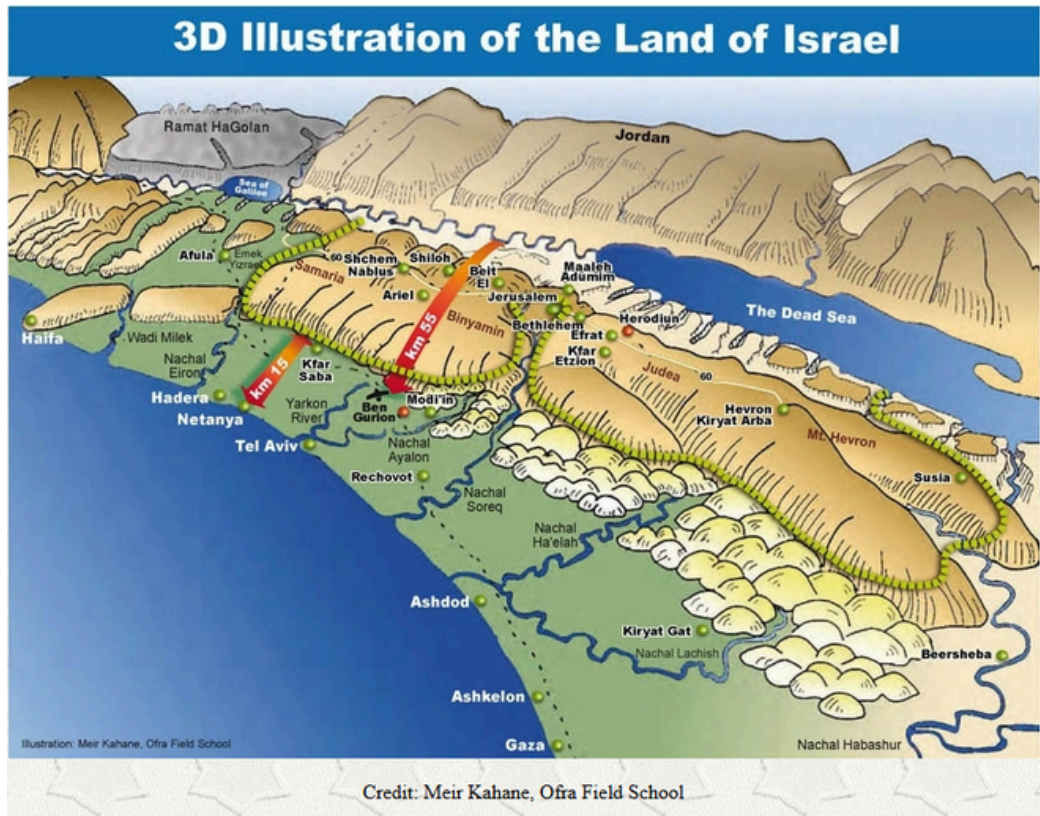
\_\_\_\_\_

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### Bereishit 21:22-34

Find the reference in the Tanakh and read the entire section together as a group.

1. Identify the city mentioned in the text:  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Mark the location on the map.



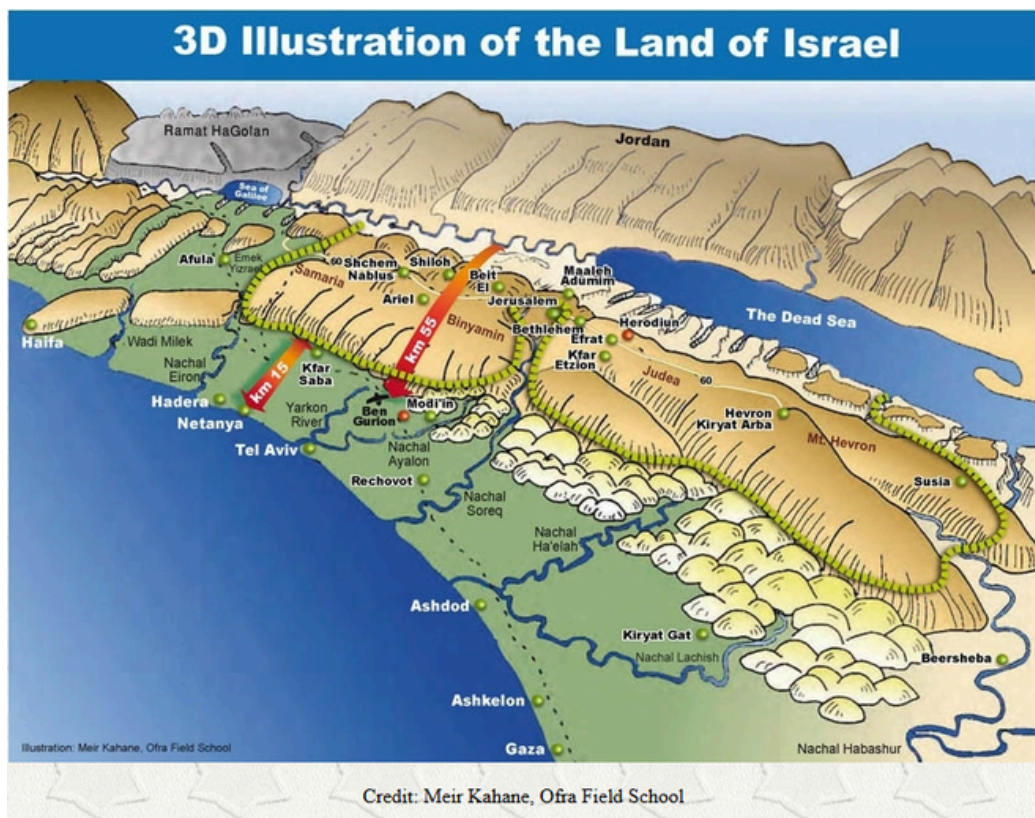
3. In 1-2 sentences, summarize the event described in the text:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why is this an important location geographically? Consider what you observe on the map above.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. List two facts about this location in **modern** Israel:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Bereishit 35:1-15

Find the reference in the Tanakh and read the entire section together as a group.



1. Identify the city mentioned in the text:  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Mark the location on the map.

3. In 1-2 sentences, summarize the event described in the text:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

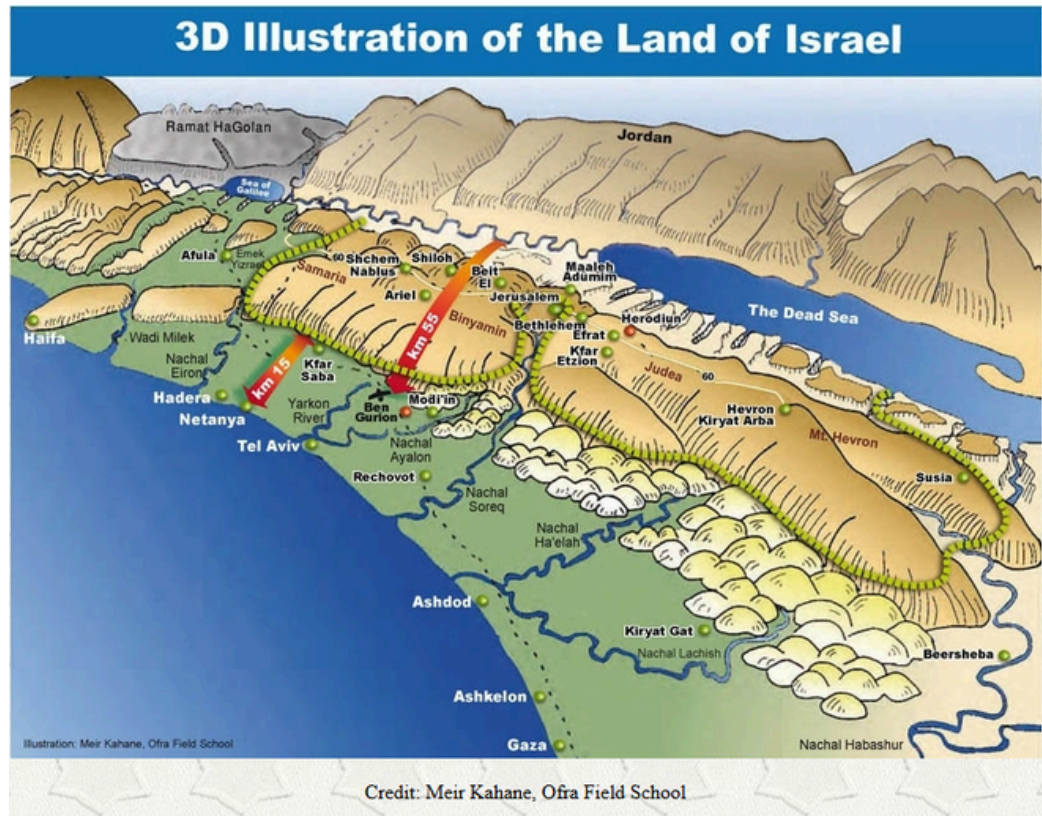
4. Why is this an important location geographically? Consider what you observe on the map above.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. List two facts about this location in **modern** Israel:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Bereishit 37:1-20**

Find the reference in the Tanakh and read the entire section together as a group.

1. Identify the city mentioned in the text:  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Mark the location on the map.



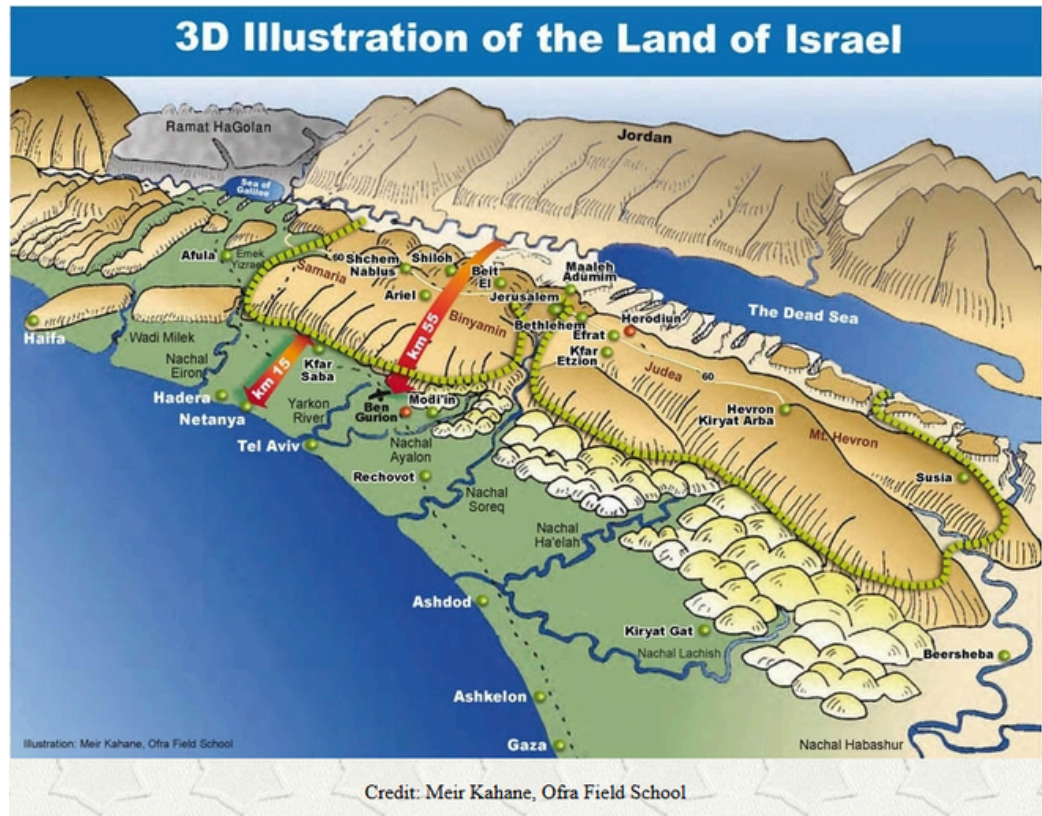
3. In 1-2 sentences, summarize the event described in the text:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why is this an important location geographically? Consider what you observe on the map above.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. List two facts about this location in **modern** Israel:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Bereishit 26:18-22

Find the reference in the Tanakh and read the entire section together as a group.



1. Identify the city mentioned in the text:  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Mark the location on the map.

3. In 1-2 sentences, summarize the event described in the text:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why is this an important location geographically? Consider what you observe on the map above.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. List two facts about this location in **modern** Israel:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_