

Curate and Create Poster Competition

The National Library of Israel is the prime institution of national memory – not only of the Israeli nation but of all Jewish people across the globe. Its mission is to serve as a home for the collections, archives, manuscripts, documents, maps, music, and other cultural treasures and preserve them for future generations.

Sometimes it is times of crisis that highlight the strength and resilience of our people. Over the past years we have experienced painful and tragic events that have impacted Jews in Israel and around the world, who have also become targets of hatred and violence. But we have also witnessed a surge of solidarity that expresses the deep connection between all of us as a people.

At NLI we aim to promote skills such as critical thinking, attention to detail, and research based on authentic primary sources. Curate & Create can serve as a channel for students to reflect on their own connection to Israel and to create a primary source of their own that illustrates their individual message. The competition offers students the opportunity to explore cultural and historic artifacts from NLI's collections and to gain an appreciation for the messages they convey through visual media.

1. Overview: Poster competition and lesson plans

Our materials have been designed for implementation in a variety of ways. Consider the following 2 paths and then personalize the learning experience to best meet your needs.

- Participate in the competition as an isolated unit.
- Incorporate some or all of the lesson plans as an anchoring learning experience that culminates in (some or all of) your learners participating in the competition. Consider creating a schoolwide exhibit in honor of Yom Ha'atzmaut using some of the suggested creative activities found within each unit.

2. Teaching Resources

In order to facilitate this learning experience, we have created lesson plans that focus on a variety of themes and skills. Each lesson plan demonstrates how to use primary sources to engage learners and promote inquisitive learning.

3. Primary Sources

Primary sources are first-hand documents that are direct evidence from the past. In contrast to secondary sources that describe historical events, primary sources allow the time period to “speak for itself.” The use of primary sources as a window into the past fosters a deeper understanding of history and enables learners to personalize and connect to earlier events.

We have curated a rich and robust collection of primary sources from the National Library of Israel to serve as the foundation for a meaningful learning process as well as inspiration for the poster design.

4. The Curate & Create Yom Ha’atzmaut Poster Competition

Stage 1: Reflect

Learners will engage with one of the following questions. This engagement will serve as an anchor for the creation of the poster.

- What role does Israel play in the Jewish world?
- What role does Israel play in my life? How does Israel shape my Jewish story?
- What values does or should Israel represent? Have these values changed over the years?

Stage 2: Curate

Learners will browse our collection of [primary sources](#) and choose one or more that resonates with them and with the questions that they are exploring.

Stage 3: Create

Learners will design a poster to commemorate 78 years of Israel that expresses their reflections on and connection to Israel. [Basic Principles of Design](#)

Stage 4: Submit

Submissions can be made [here](#) a month in advance of Yom Ha’atzmaut (from March 22, 2026) and will be open till May 3, 2026.

Click [here](#) to read the rules and regulations.

The entries will be evaluated by a judging committee made up of NLI staff and representatives from NLI’s partner organizations. The criteria for judging the posters are as follows:

Message/the me	Conveys a clear message anchored in one (or more) of the questions.	3
Design/ Artistic composition	Uses principles of design in the final product: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shape and form ● Color ● Emphasis ● Composition ● Movement ● Unity 	2
Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engages viewers and piques curiosity ● Exhibits a unique and creative approach to the chosen theme. 	2
Artist Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Includes a brief description and explanation of the major poster elements. ● Includes a personal statement about how the message conveyed in the poster expresses your connection to Israel. ● Demonstrates how the National Library of Israel's primary sources inspired the final product. 	3
Total		10

Process:

- Submissions can be made a month in advance of Yom Ha'atzmaut (from March 22, 2026) and will be open till May 3, 2026.
- Winners announced: May 24, 2026.
- The winners will be featured on the NLI's social media platforms and website.
- **Teachers of winning entries will receive a special gift from the NLI as a token of our appreciation.**
- Entries will be judged and rewarded according to age group and in the following categories (one winning poster per category):

Age	Track	Prize
Elementary School (Ages 6-9)	Group entries only	\$500 for school *
Middle School (Ages 10-13)	Group entries	\$500 for school *
	Individual entries	\$200 Gift Card
High School (Ages 14-18)	Group entries	\$500 for school *
	Individual entries	\$200 Gift Card

* **School prizes** for group entries in all age categories will be used for a group or school-wide activity about Israel, or towards a donation to an organization of their choice. The school will be obligated to update the NLI in advance about the allocation of the prize money and to submit a receipt.

All winners are entitled to a FREE VIP visit at the library with their family when they visit Israel.

We at the National Library of Israel are here to support you in this initiative!

Please reach out for support along the way: Shuvi Hoffman, Global Jewish Education Manager Shuvi.Hoffman@nli.org.il