

SUKKOT 4 KIDS

סוכות



Shalom Parents,

We hope your new year is off to a very sweet start!

Here are some activities, fun facts and resources for celebrating *Sukkot* with your children. The week-long holiday begins on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of *Tishrei*. This year it begins sundown on Sunday, September 27th.

Sukkot celebrates the harvest in Israel and is called *Z'man Simchataynu*, Season of our Joy. A *sukkah* (a booth or temporary structure) is a symbol of joy because it reminds us of our freedom. The Israelites lived in booths while wandering from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. On *Sukkot* we greet each other with "Chag Sameach" – "Happy Holiday".

A note on transliteration:

"Ch" is the guttural sound made by the Hebrew letter *Chet*, as in *Chanukah* or *chutzpah*.

We engage a new generation in Jewish learning by understanding the unique needs of families and teens, meeting them where they are, and offering diverse pathways into community. For events, resources and more visit www.jewishlearningworks.org


JewishLearningWorks
Reach. Teach. Ignite.

WELCOMING GUESTS

It is a great *mitzvah* to welcome guests and Sukkot is the perfect time to do so!
Consider inviting a friend or neighbor to your home or *sukkah* to share a meal over the holiday.



You're Invited!



WHO: _____

WHERE: _____

DETAILS: _____

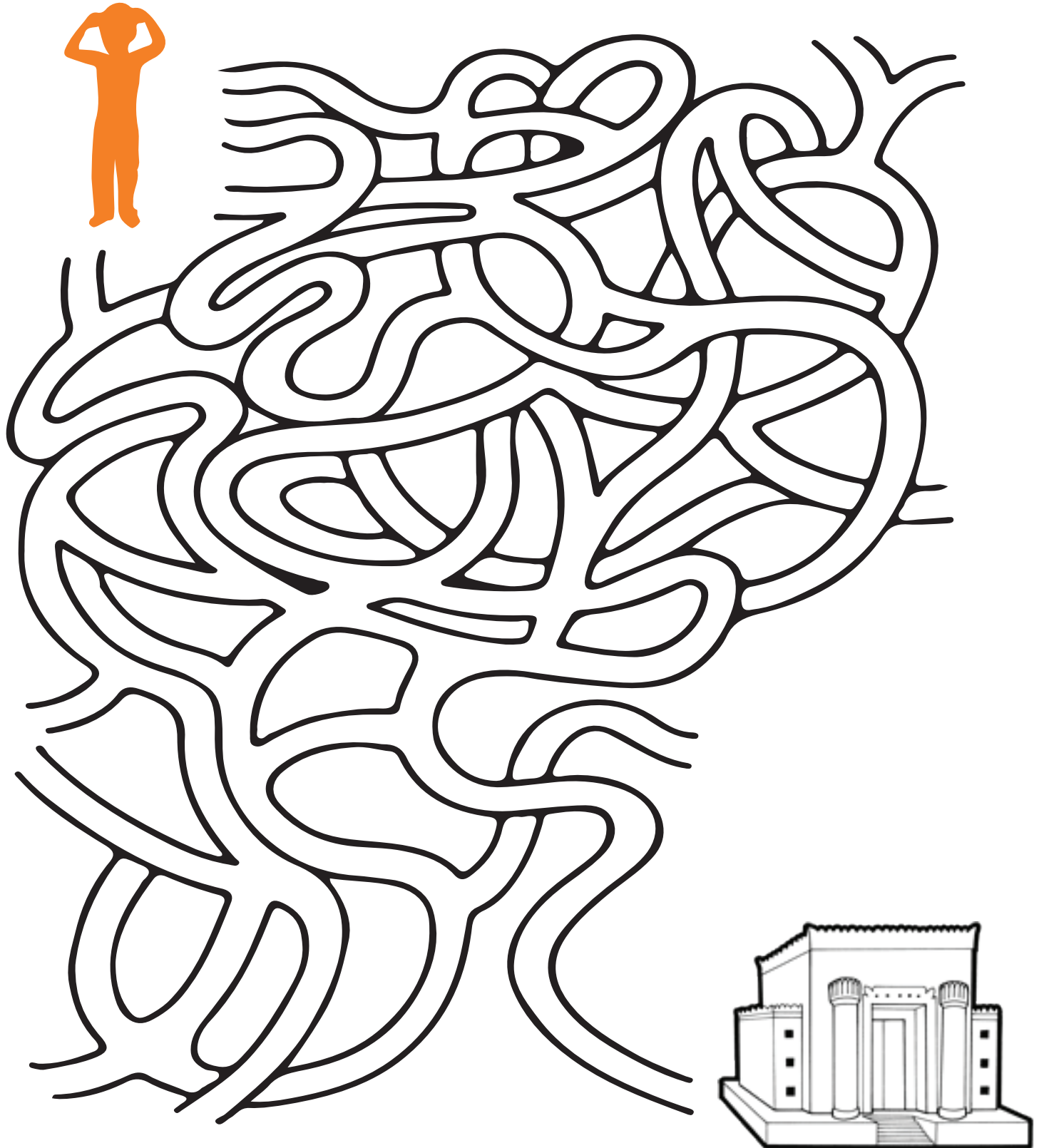


DATE: _____

TIME: _____

MAZE

On *Sukkot*, Israelites journeyed to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. **Help this pilgrim find his/her way to the festival!**

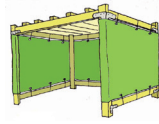


עִבְרִית / HEBREW

Ivrit (Eve-REET)

סֻכָּה

Sukkah (Soo-KAH)



Booth

אֹרְחִים

Orchim (Or-CHIM)



Guests

אֶתְרוֹג

Etrog (Eh-TROAG)



Citron

עֲרַבָּה

Aravah (Ah-rah-VAH)



Willow

הַדָּס

Hadas (Hah-DAS)



Myrtle

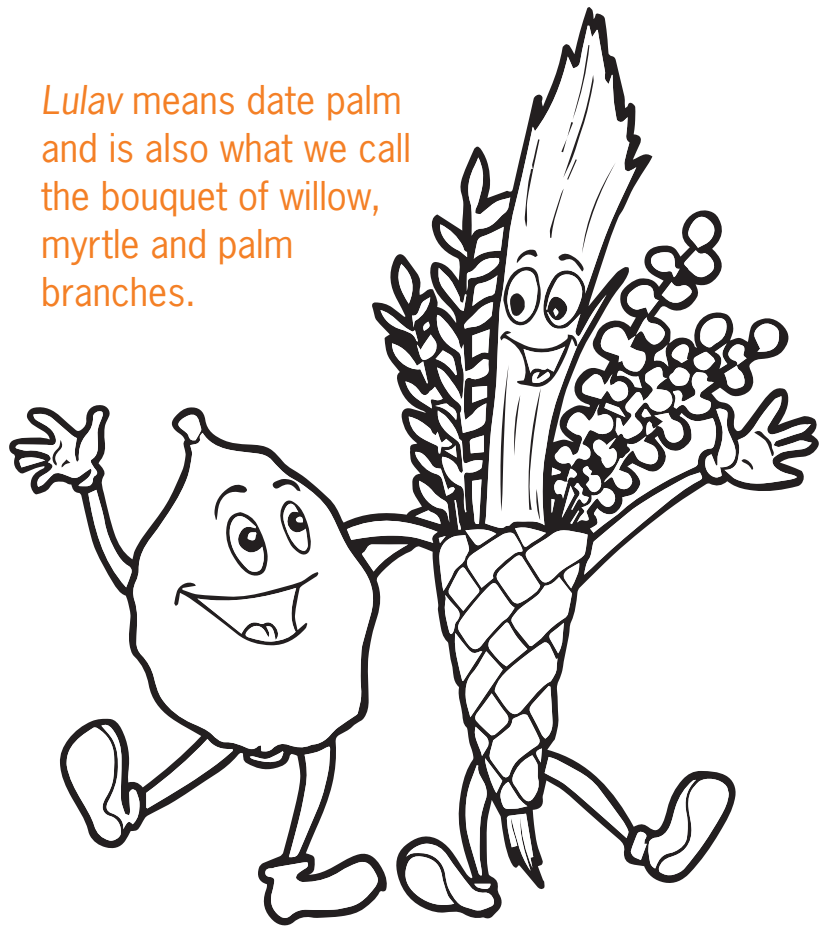
לוּלָב

Lulav (Loo-LUV)



Date Palm

Lulav means date palm and is also what we call the bouquet of willow, myrtle and palm branches.

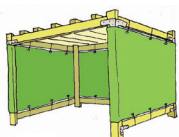


On Sukkot, we shake the Arba'ah Minim, the Four Species (an etrog and 3-part lulav) in 6 directions: east, south, west, north, up and down. This is a reminder that holiness is all around us.

MATCHING

Match each picture with its first Hebrew letter.

ה ע ל א ס א

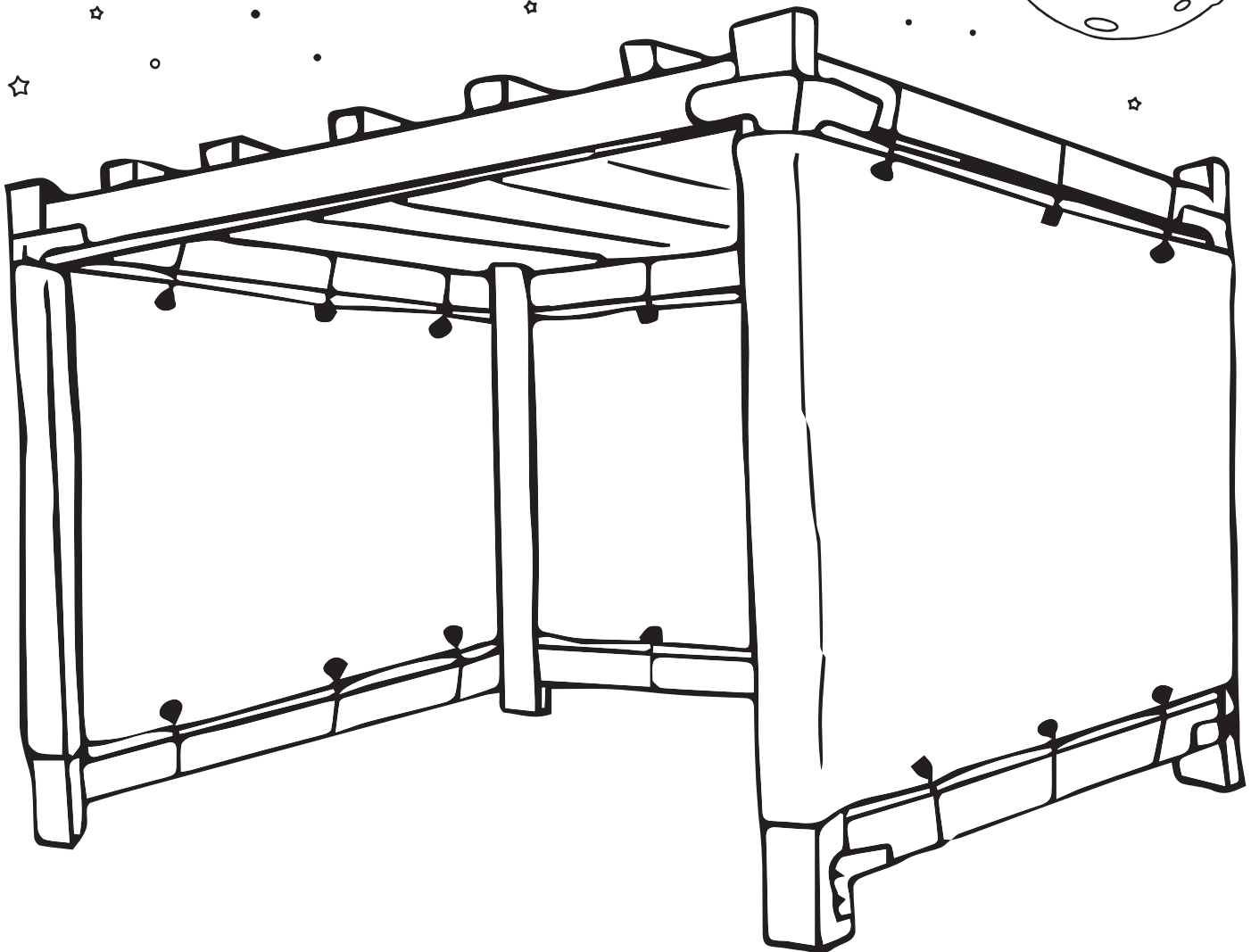
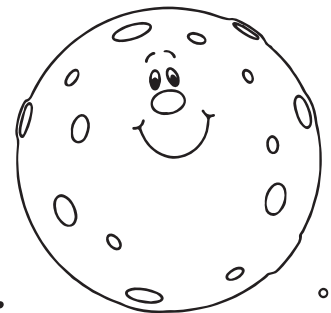


SUKKAH סוכה

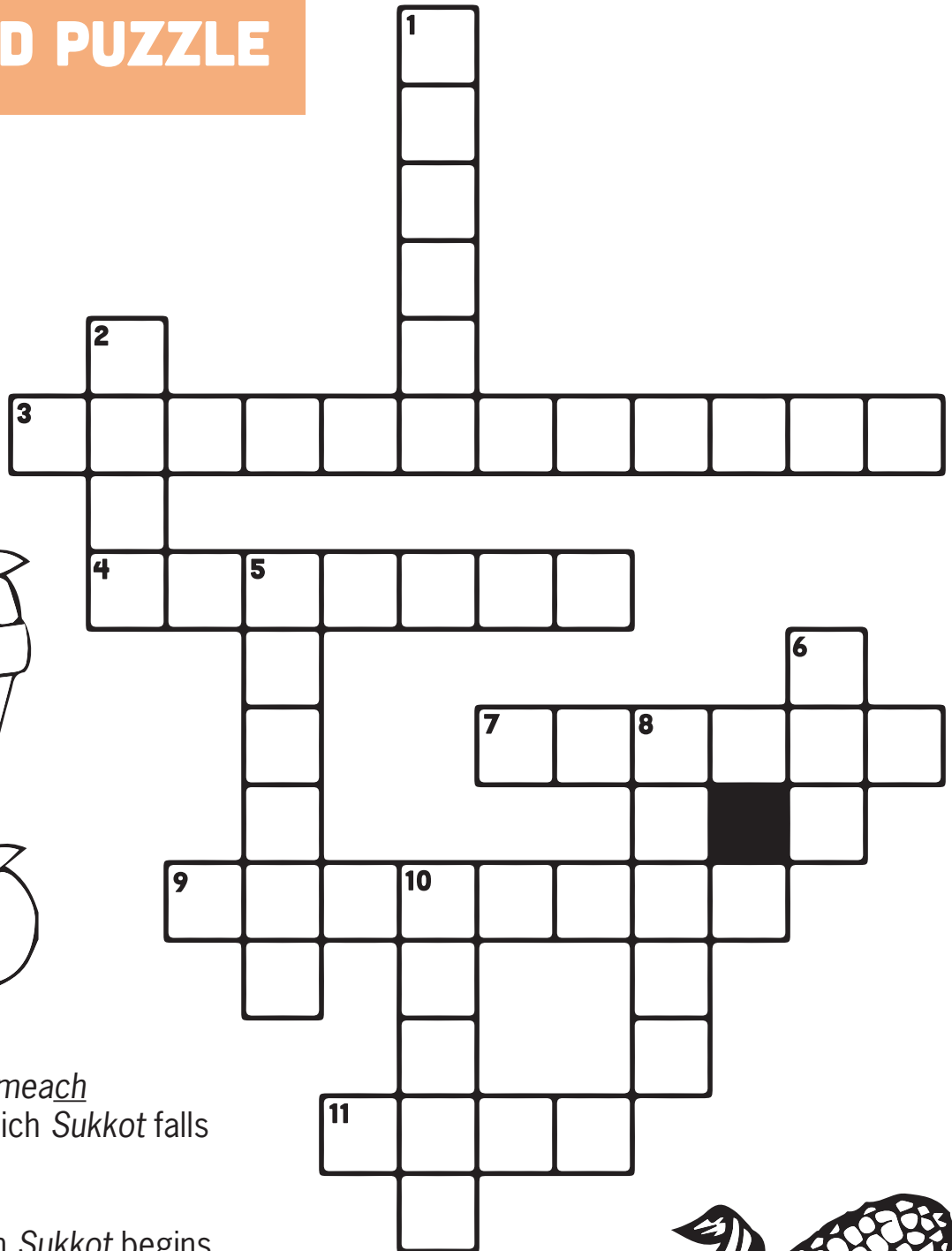
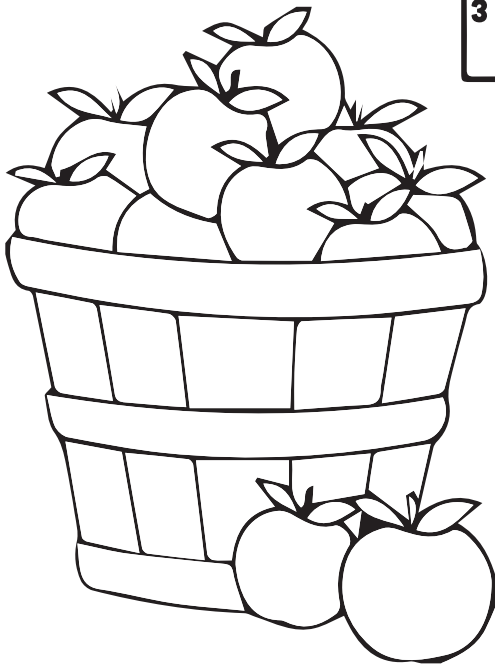
A *sukkah's* roof, *s'chach*, is made of organic materials (often palm fronds). It is open enough to see stars at night but covered enough that there is more shade than sun during the day. Meals are enjoyed in the *sukkah* during the week and some people even sleep there! On the first night of *Sukkot*, look up at the sky to see the full harvest moon.

Use your creativity to beautify this *sukkah* and make it unique!

Adorning the *sukkah* enhances the holiday's joy. Some common *sukkah* decorations that are hung from the roof and walls include colorful garlands, fruit, vegetables, gourds, Indian corn, flowers, lights, children's artwork, paper chains and lanterns.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 3. English for Chag Sameach
- 4. Hebrew month in which *Sukkot* falls
- 7. English for *Aravah*
- 9. English for *Lulav*
- 11. Full in the sky when *Sukkot* begins

DOWN

- 1. Hebrew for a *sukkah's* roof
- 2. The first direction the *lulav* is waved
- 5. Hebrew for booth or temporary dwelling
- 6. *Sukkot* is *Z'man Simchataynu*, Season of our _____
- 8. Bouquet of palm, myrtle and willow branches
- 10. Citron



EMBODY SUKKOT

STRIKE A POSE!

- Stand facing east with your legs close together, knees slightly bent.
- Raise your arms, palms touching or interlaced, and hold your upper arms close to your ears.
- Keep your feet planted and reach upstretching your spine to the edges of your fingertips!
- Lift and lengthen your body as you gently sway in each direction like a *lulav*.
- Bring your hands down to your sides and then up to your heart.



MAKE A MOVE!

- Stand facing east with your legs strong like a palm tree.
- Jump and turn to the right.
- Shake your hands and arms!
- Do the same for each of the other 5 directions. Repeat the jumps and shake other parts of your body – elbows, feet, hips, head – let yourself move freely until you're shaking your whole body.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- At harvest time in Israel, farmers used to sleep in *sukkah*-like structures to be near their crops. Sukkot reminds us of our connection to the earth and the food we eat. Take a family walk in nature, collect leaves for a collage, do some gardening, visit a farm or farmer's market, or collect food for those in need.
- Don't have your own *sukkah*? Simulate the experience by building a fort or camping in a backyard or park. Don't forget to decorate!
- Create a mini *sukkah* out of legos or out of food such as graham cracker walls, using cream cheese to hold them together, and carrot sticks for the *s'chach*.
- Most of us are blessed to live in strong homes but some people's outdoor temporary structures are long-term. Raise money for an organization that helps the homeless or deliver food to individuals you see on the street.
- Check out our Pinterest page for crafts, recipes and other ideas: tinyurl.com/jlw-sukkot-pin
- Want to learn the *Sukkot* blessings?
Check out this document and audio files from our friends at Interfaith Family:
tinyurl.com/IF1-sukkot & tinyurl.com/IF-sukkotblessings
- Want to know more about our offerings for parents and their young children?
Contact Deb Fink, Director of the Family Education and Engagement Initiative, at:
dfink@jewishlearningworks.org or 415-751-6983 x153.

Chag Sukkot Sameach!