Tu Bishvat

The New Year of Trees

Read the text and answer the questions that follow:

The name "Tu Bishvat" means the 15th day of the month of Shvat. It is the Jewish New Year of the trees and it marks[1] the moment when most trees in Israel begin to bloom[2].

This is not a religious[3] holiday like Rosh Hashanah, or a holiday with a historical reason like Chanukah. It is a holiday that developed with the Jewish people when they became an agricultural[4] society after settling[5] in Israel many years ago. The early settlers realized[6] how valuable[7] trees are: they give us shade in hot days, they give us fruit to eat and the Eucalyptus trees that need a lot of water dry up the swamps[8] and prevent diseases like the malaria[9].

It is still cold during the month of Shvat but spring starts with its blooming, especially the almond trees and their pink and white flowers.

How do we celebrate Tu Bi-Shvat?

- We sing songs.
- We plant trees.
- We eat fruit and nuts, especially the ones that grow in Israel. Mostly we eat dried fruits like figs, dates, raisins[10] etc.

The customs[11] of planting trees and eating fruit remind us of our love for the Land of Israel. They also remind us that trees help to protect the environment[12]! They give us beauty, shade, food and oxygen[13]!

1 mention לציין	2 flowers open פריחה	3 opposite of atheism דתי	4 farming חקלאות
5 building a new city התיישבות	6 understood הבינו	7 costs a lot יקר	8 wet land ביצה
9 disease מחלת המלריה	10 dried grapes צימוקים	11 habits מנהגים	12 surrounding סביבה
13 we breathe it חמצן			

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the meaning of the name "Tu Bishvat"?

   Tu Bishvat means _____

2. What kind of holiday is it?

a. Custom b. Religious c. Agricultural d.Historical

3. Which sentence **DOES NOT** answer the question **why trees are so important**?

   a. They dry the swamps

   b. They give us shade

   c. They give us oxygen

   d. They give us water

   e. They give us food

4. Which tree is the first to bloom?

   a. Almond

   b. Blooming

   c. Apple

   d. grape

5. Why do we plant trees on Tu Bishvat?

   We plant trees on Tu Bishvat because _____

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Fill in the words from the word bank in the following text.

wine	fifteenth	world	Year	only
trees	second	plant	glass	fruit

Tu B'Shvat is the New 1._____ for the Trees or Rosh Hashanah La-Ilanot. It is on the 2. _____ of the Hebrew month of Shvat. Jewish people all over the 3. _____ celebrate Tu B'Shvat. In Israel, it is just the right time to 4._____ trees. People who live in other countries give money to the Jewish National Fund (JNF-Keren Kayemet) and they plant the 5. _____ for them. On Tu B'Shvat, people eat dried 6. _____ like: almonds, dates, figs, raisins and carobs. Some people have a "seder" and drink four glasses of wine. The first 7. _____ has only white wine. The 8._____ glass has white wine and a little red wine. The third glass has red 9. _____ and a little white wine and the fourth glass has 10. _____ red wine.

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