

Shofar Calls

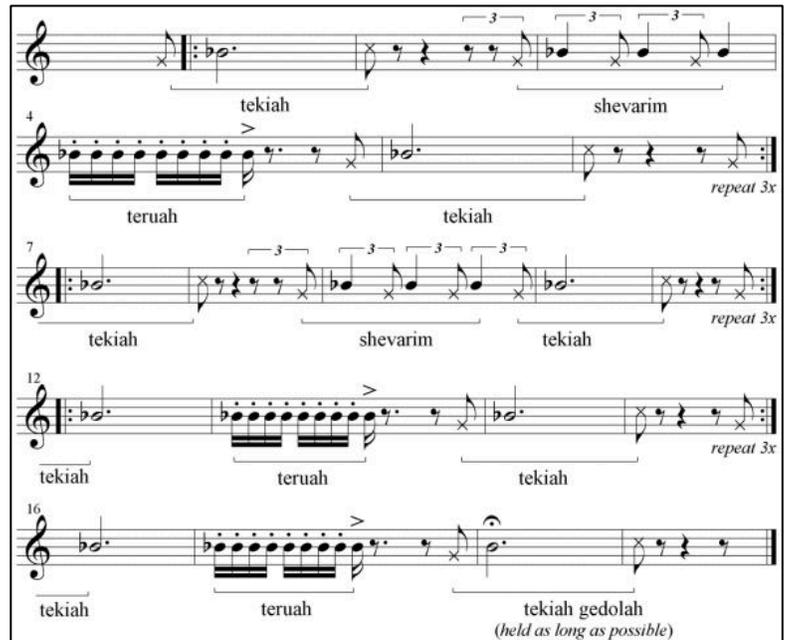
Most Jews associate the blowing of the shofar with the ram sent to Moses to sacrifice instead of Jacob. But the shofar and its calls have much more meaning. Many people believe that the shofar calls are intended to inspire people to mend their lives and repent. In the Rosh Hashanah service there are four calls: TE'KI'AH, SH'VA'RIM, TE'RU'AH, and TE'KI'AH GE'DO'LAH.

In this activity, you will learn the meanings of the shofar calls and come up with some of your own.

When to do this activity: Any time leading up to the High Holidays

Preparation: You will need:

- An internet-connected computer with sound
- *Optional* -- A musical instrument and someone who knows how to play it. A brass or woodwind instrument is recommended, but you can use a piano or even a kazoo.



The musical score is written on five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Tekiah (G4), Shevarim (G4-A4-B4-G4, marked with a '3' over the notes).
- Staff 2: Teruah (G4-A4-B4-G4-A4-B4-G4, marked with a '>' over the notes), Tekiah (G4).
- Staff 3: Tekiah (G4), Shevarim (G4-A4-B4-G4, marked with a '3' over the notes), Tekiah (G4).
- Staff 4: Tekiah (G4), Teruah (G4-A4-B4-G4-A4-B4-G4, marked with a '>' over the notes), Tekiah (G4).
- Staff 5: Tekiah (G4), Teruah (G4-A4-B4-G4-A4-B4-G4, marked with a '>' over the notes), Tekiah Gedolah (G4, marked with a long note head and the instruction '(held as long as possible)').

Repeats are indicated by double bar lines with dots and the text 'repeat 3x' at the end of each staff.

The Activity:

1. Listen to the sounds of the shofar. Here are a few of the many available sites and YouTube videos:
 - a. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jR20-0sy1Y>
 - b. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pb0A_cPIHlk
 - c. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73Qw4HZkZDw>
 - d. <https://amenvamen.com/shofar-blowing-meaning/>
2. Find out what the four traditional sounds mean. Here are a few sites with good explanations. Read through a few and then discuss how they apply to our modern life.
 - a. <http://www.mazornet.com/holidays/RoshHashanah/shofar.htm>
 - b. <https://amenvamen.com/shofar-blowing-meaning/>
 - c. http://www.aish.com/h/hh/rh/shofar/Shofar_Symbolism.html
3. Hum or play the sounds using the score to the right using your own musical instrument.
4. If you were asked to create a new call to action beyond the ones we already do, what would it mean? What would it sound like? Hum, sing, or play the sound on your musical instrument