

Jewish Continuity

Simchat Torah, meaning “rejoicing of the Torah,” is the day we end the reading of the Five Books of Moses with the story of Moses’s death and start the scroll all over again with the story of Adam and Eve.

In this activity you will connect with Jewish history by comparing yourself with one of the “characters” from the stories in the Torah.

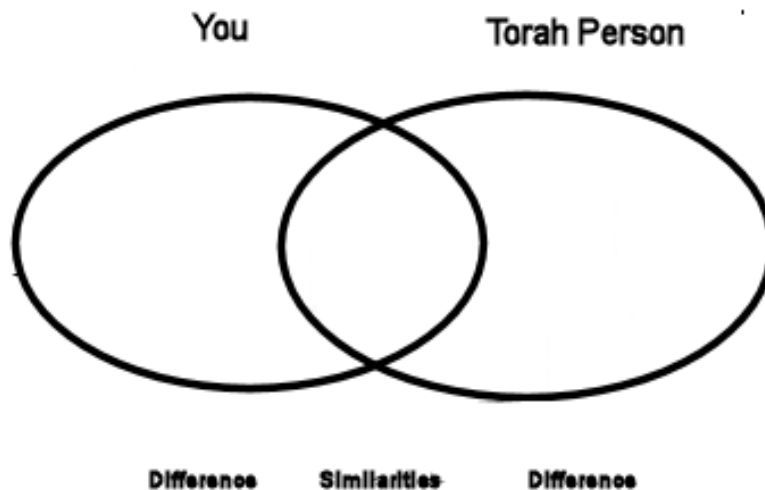
When: Any time during Simchat Torah

Preparation: You will need:

- A list of people in the Torah. Come up with your own list or you can refer to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Torah_people
- Paper and writing instruments.

Activity:

1. If you have an English or Hebrew name that is the same as or similar to one of the people in the Torah, you may want to choose that person. Otherwise, look over the list of people in the Torah and choose one.
2. Read a bit about this person.
3. Complete a Venn diagram comparing yourself to this person. How are you alike? How are you different? Try to get beyond the obvious characteristics such as: “I live in a different time period.” or “I wear different clothing.” or “We are both Jewish.”



4. If you are doing this activity as a family or with friends, tell a little bit about the person you selected and share your diagram. Can your family members or friends think of any similarities to add?