

Sukkot Holiday Guide & Activity Book



Celebrating Sukkot

On Sukkot Jewish families build a temporary hut (sukkah) with an open roof made of branches to let in moonlight and an open side to welcome guests.

Sukkot is a time to host guests for meals in the sukka. The open booth is a reminder of how the Children of Israel slept after they fled slavery in Egypt, a connection to the story of Passover. It also resembles temporary shelters from the sun used by farmers planting out in the fields.



Make a Kid-Sized Play Sukkah

Supplies

Cardboard boxes of any size

Scissors

Small leafy branches

Markers, paint, stickers, or other art supplies

Directions

Cut the flaps off your cardboard box so you are left with three walls.

Cut off the top of the box (the one facing the ceiling when it's standing up on its side) and lay small branches across the top to create a roof of s'chach (organic material used for the covering).

Then decorate the sukkah with art supplies, and invite friends!

A mini sukkah can accommodate stuffed animal guests, while a larger one is the perfect place to hang out with the human kind.

Enjoy being together!

How to Make a Train Garland For Sukkot

Supplies

Craft paper

Scissors

Yarn

Glue or tape

Directions

Draw a train engine and cut it out.

For each train car cut one rectangle and decorate to add windows or trim for roofing. Consider making the train long enough to write out a word, with one letter on each car.

Draw and cut out wheels—two for the engine and each car.

Glue or tape wheels to the engine and cars.

Glue or tape the engine to one end of the yarn, then attach each car behind it, leaving a little space between each one.

Display your train!

Construct a Sukkah-Fort

Supplies

Chairs

Couch cushions

Pillows

Blankets or sheets

Friends — humans, stuffed animals, dolls...anyone you like to hang out with!

Directions

Use the couch cushions, pillows, and blankets to make a fort-style sukkah right in your own living room. Make it big or small, as long as there is room for friends inside. Practice welcoming your guests by inviting them into the sukkah, making them comfortable, and offering them something to eat or drink. Before you put the pillows away, have a family picnic dinner inside your sukkah!

How to Make an Easy Sukkah Decoration That Doubles as a Bird Feeder

Supplies

O-Shaped Cereal

Pipe cleaners or chenille stems

TIP: If you're making a sukkah decoration, just about any round cereal will do. But if you want to make an edible decoration that birds can enjoy, make sure to use unsweetened, unflavored (so no "honey nut"), cereals

Directions

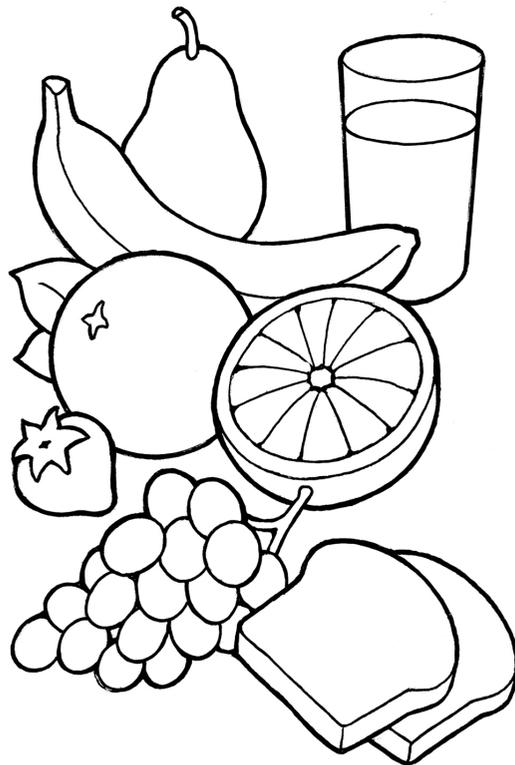
Make a knot at one end of a pipe cleaner, then string the cereal onto it.

Fasten the two ends together into a loop, then loop another pipe cleaner around it as a holder.

Hang up your decoration

Taste Local Foods

One of the oldest traditions of Sukkot is sampling foods from the local harvest. Update this tradition by trying something local to you. Whether it's an interesting fruit your neighbor grows in their garden or a special treat made by a small restaurant, enjoying local foods is a fun, and tasty, way to pay homage to Sukkot traditions.



Shake the Lulav

The Jewish fall harvest festival of Sukkot has a lot to offer families. Building a sukkah, decorating, eating outdoors — there's plenty to love about the holiday. There is, however, one Sukkot tradition that might leave some families scratching their heads and asking, "What is up with that rain dance-looking ritual?"

What is a "Lulav"?

One Sukkot tradition involves the etrog, or citron, a fruit similar to a lemon, and the lulav, a bouquet made up of palm, myrtle, and willow branches. People shake the lulav in a special way to send a blessing out to all of creation.

