

FROM CHAI MITZVAH GRANDPARENTS AND BEYOND
SOURCEBOOK 5: ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH SPIRIT

Door Sign—Bezalel Style

INTRODUCTION:

The chalutzim (early pioneers in Israel) felt that Israel needed to have a national style of art that reflected the way Jewish people had come to Israel from all over the world. The style, named “Bezalel,” was a mixture of European and Middle-Eastern, and was taught at the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts. Students at the Bezalel School carved sculptures from the wood of Israeli olive trees. They also made ritual objects, like candle sticks, kiddush cups, and menorot. These were often made from metal. Bezalel students also designed posters to tell the rest of the world about Israel.

The Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts was founded in 1906 and was named after Bezalel ben Uri, the man appointed by Moses to oversee the design and construction of the Tabernacle, the portable Temple that the Israelites carried with them in the desert.

Today, the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design is Israel’s national school of art. Graduates are famous artists, architects, fashion designers and film makers. Their work is seen all over the world.



This poster, designed by artists at the Bezalel School during the 1920s, called on Jews to visit the land of Israel and buy the works of local artists.



This seder plate was made by Bezalel artists in 1921.



Students at the Bezalel School carved sculptures from olive wood.

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ACTIVITY: DELET DECORATION (*Delet דלת* means door in Hebrew.)

Make a beautiful sign for your door – Bezalel style!

You'll Need: disposable baking tin • scissors • ball point pen • pad of paper • tape • plastic spoon

What to Do:

1. Use your scissors to cut away the sides of the disposable baking tin. After you have cut out the bottom, carefully fold down the edges so that they are smooth.
2. Cut a hole in the top of the sheet of metal so that you can hang it on your doorknob. Cut the hole in a square shape so you can easily fold the edges back and make them smooth.
3. If your disposable baking tin had any kind of writing or designs on it, place it on top of the pad and rub it with the plastic spoon until the writing disappears.
4. Draw your design on a sheet of paper. (*design suggestions:* your family's name in Hebrew or English, symbols of Israel)
5. Place your metal sheet on top of the pad. Tape the paper with the design onto it so that it won't slip.
6. Trace over the design with the ball point pen. Press hard, so the design will be raised on the metal.
7. When you are finished, hang your Delet Decoration proudly!

Click on the photo below to see a video of the instructions. If the video doesn't play, [click here](#).



CONVERSATION:

- Do you have a special toy or other item that makes you feel calm and safe when you hold it?
Is there a special place you like to go when you want to feel cozy?



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