

General guidelines for working with photographs in Jewish Lens lesson plans

1. First, display the photograph on the screen for all the participants. At this stage, you should not reveal where it was taken and what can be seen in it! The aim of viewing the photograph is to extract as much information as possible from it. For us, the photograph is a text that includes, on the one hand, very specific, one-off information, while on the other hand we can learn from it about the custom/phenomenon/mitzvah depicted.
2. Ask the students to look carefully at the photograph.
3. Recommendation: Announce a game: everyone, in turn, has to mention a single item that they see. No repeats of items allowed.

It is important that the collection of data be as neutral as possible. At this stage, no one should express any attitude toward what is seen (descriptive terms, such as beautiful, large, frightening, or anything else that indicates an attitude toward what is seen, should not be used). The reasons for this are:

- a. To collect as much information as possible that will serve us later in integrating the image with the written texts.
- b. To gain experience in precise observation.
- c. To gain experience in being precise in speech.
- d. To gain experience in listening to others.
- e. To gain experience in interpreting a situation from the picture.
- f. To be exposed to other people's perspectives.
- g. To gain experience of the important process of collecting information, and only thereafter expressing an opinion.

Equipment required: projector