

MAKING A MARK: HIGHLIGHTING JEWISH AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS -A 25 MINUTE LESSON-

Ever wonder where some of the brightest ideas in science, medicine, and the arts come from? Look closer, and you'll find a constellation of Jewish American innovators, thinkers, and creators who have illuminated our world. Their stories aren't just about individual achievement; they are about a community's unwavering commitment to progress, a legacy that continues to inspire and challenge us to push the boundaries of what's possible.

This lesson explores the profound contributions of Jewish Americans. Students will explore how Jewish Americans have shaped society, leaving an indelible mark on fields like science, medicine, and the ongoing fight for human rights, revealing the powerful impact of their diverse perspectives and experiences.

Essential Questions

- How have Jewish Americans contributed to American society in various fields such as arts, medicine, and computer science?
- How have the values and experiences of Jewish Americans shaped their contributions to American society?
- What can we learn from the contributions of Jewish Americans about the importance of diversity, innovation, and cultural exchange in a thriving society?

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Identify and analyze specific contributions of Jewish Americans across diverse fields and explain how these contributions have impacted American society.
- Evaluate the significance of Jewish American contributions in the context of broader societal values, such as diversity, innovation, and cultural exchange, and articulate how these contributions demonstrate the importance of these values.

Materials Needed

- [Pre-Instruction Student Self-Assessment](#) (you will be instructed to make a copy)
- [Highlighting Contributions of Jewish Americans](#)
- [Social Media Spotlight Activity](#) (you will be instructed to make a copy)
- [Post-Instruction Student Self-Assessment](#) (you will be instructed to make a copy)

Lesson Plan

1. PRE-LEARNING STUDENT SELF-ASSESSMENT

Have students complete the [Pre-Instruction Student Self-Assessment](#).

2. ACTIVITY

1. Distribute the Highlighting [Jewish American Contributions Document](#) and give students time to independently review the document and explore some of the additional sources provided, encouraging them to jot down some specific examples of individuals, achievements, or organizations they find inspiring or important.
2. Place students into small groups of 3-4 and give them the following activity options to showcase their learning:
 - "Ripple Effect" Brainstorm: Start with one group contribution and brainstorm all the positive changes it created, then the changes those changes created, and so on, visualizing the expanding impact. Students can record this conversation and then share it with you as a means of assessment.
 - "Impact Wall": Have students write down specific ways Jewish Americans have positively impacted them, their community, and or society and post them on a shared wall. This can be done on a digital platform like Padlet or on paper.
 - "Social Media Spotlight": Create a [social media](#) post showcasing Jewish Americans' achievements and impact using relevant hashtags.

3. LEARNING ASSESSMENTS

- Informal Assessments:
 - a. Have students complete the [Post-Instruction Student Self-Assessment](#).
 - b. Observe students' participation in class discussions and their completion of activities.