

BS"D

CONNECTIONS ISRAEL

Bringing the Jewish People Together

IDF Soldiers - Up Close and Personal

Goals:

A. To personalize the soldier so that students come to understand that behind each military uniform there is a human being, like themselves, with a family, emotions, and a personal story.

B. Becoming familiar with the world that an Israeli soldier inhabits.

C. To demonstrate how significant and meaningful students' letters and gifts are to our soldiers.

Target group: 12 year olds and up

Materials required: Printing photos that are attached

Duration: 1 hour

Activity Outline:

I) The teacher shows the students pictures of different soldiers and asks them to create that soldier's biographical information. The teacher may ask some guiding questions. Below are some sample questions.

Where do you think he/she is originally from?

Describe the person's family.

Where do you think the soldier is serving?

II) The students, using their imagination and what they see in the picture, try to tell something personal about that soldier.

III) The teacher asks for volunteers to read the "biography" of each soldier.

IV) At this point, the teacher shares the biographical information on each soldier with the group.

V) A follow up discussion is led to compare and contrast student's guesses about the soldiers and their real lives. What surprised them? Did they realize the different ages at which people serve? Were they aware of the different kinds of services our soldiers perform? How do they imagine soldiers' families feel while their husbands, fathers, son, brothers etc. are in active duty?

VI) The students then receive a picture of an entire unit. Each student picks one member of the unit whose "biographical details" he has to create.

Who is he?

What's his name?

Where did he come from ?

Who is waiting for him at home?

What unit does he belong to and what do they do?

The students present what they wrote to the class.







Israel Chazan is a new immigrant from France. He is a "chayal boded" - a lone soldier, here without any family. He volunteers to serve in the army. Israel guards the border with Egypt.

He is angry with his parents and sister because they are ashamed of their Jewishness. He on the other hand is willing to give his life for "our country."

Yehuda Levi served in Gdud Shaked of the Givati brigade, a combat infantry unit.

He was killed in Gush Katif by a terrorist's bullet.

While on duty in the guard tower, he was surrounded by Arabs who threw stones, Molotov cocktails and firebombs. Then they began shooting at the tower. He was killed by a bullet to the heart.

Rafi Shalev is from Kibbutz Maccabim. He is married, and the father of four children, including a set of twins. In the photo, he is making a toast to mark the end of his annual IDF service where he serves as a paratrooper in the reserves. Rafi fought in the first Lebanon war.

In Kibbutz Maccabim. Rafi works in the kibbutz business which manufactures roof shingles. In his leisure time he enjoys traveling and sightseeing.

