

BS"D

# CONNECTIONS ISRAEL

Bringing the Jewish People Together

## The IDF and You

**Goals:** A. Understanding the difficult challenges confronting the IDF

B. Understanding how support from Jews living far away can help combat soldiers

**TARGET:** Grade 2-6

**Materials:** A large map of Israel, toy soldiers

**Duration:** One and a half hours

### Activity Outline:

**Part I:** The teacher begins the activity by asking a few questions:

- 1) What do you know about Israel?
- 2) Who has ever been there?
- 3) What do you remember about your trip?
- 4) Did you see any soldiers when you were there?
- 5) What do you think the job of Israeli soldiers is?

Each pair of students receives a map of Israel and are instructed to work as a team in writing what they see and learn from the map. The Teacher may prompt students by suggesting they compare the size Israel to the size of

America; that they take notice of Israel's borders etc. Ultimately, based on visual observation and general knowledge, the goal is for the students to understand that Israel is a very small country with long borders, surrounded by hostile enemies on every side and that it houses places of importance to the entire Jewish people such as the kotel.

**Part II:** Once the class comes back together again, pairs are asked to share their observations. The teacher will take their ideas and point out how the enemies that surround Israel try to hurt civilians and how the soldiers work to protect them.

**Part III:** The teacher places a large map in the middle of the classroom and each student places his toy soldier somewhere on the map. When doing so he has to explain why he chose this location. The student is also asked to imagine how his soldier might feel working in this location.

**Part IV:** In this section, the teacher makes the experience of the Israeli soldier personal. She describes how these teenagers are away from home for extended periods of time, making comparisons to sleep away camp, college dorms etc. Some of the regiments of training coupled with lack of sleep, institutional food, no time for leisure activity etc. are emphasized. Finally, the teacher asks how we, as Jews living far away can make a difference in their daily lives.

Answers are listed on the board.

Finally, the teacher explains about the privilege they have of adopting a unit of soldiers and sending them goodies, pictures and letters to make their difficult days special by

reminding them that Jews around the world appreciate what they are doing and want to let them know!