

# Yom Yerushalayim

A few weeks ago, we celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut, the day that the State of Israel was established. In Israel, on Yom Ha'atzmaut people enjoy hiking, traveling, barbequing and spending time with family and friends. But the situation was not always so simple. After the establishment of the State of Israel, the War of Independence began. Israel was divided into several sections that were governed by Israel, Jordan, Syria or Egypt. Jerusalem, Israel's capital, was divided and Jews could not reach certain parts of the city. One of these places was the Kotel (the Western Wall), the site that reminds us of the Beit Hamikdash that was destroyed. Jerusalem was a divided city for nineteen years when another war broke out, the Six Day War. In only six days, the IDF soldiers managed to reach all of the places that were controlled by Israel's enemies. The brave soldiers reached the Kotel, a place where they had never been before. When the soldiers reached the Kotel, they wept and danced with excitement. Rabbi Goren blew the shofar. From then on, every year we celebrate the 28th day of Iyar as Yom Yerushalayim, the day that Jerusalem was unified.



Have you ever been to Jerusalem? What did you see there?

## Activity

My Jerusalem – How many neighborhoods and sites in Jerusalem can you name?