

Bal Tashchit – You shall not ..., Saving Our Environment

"לא תשחית את עצה לנדה עליו גרזן, כי ממנו תאכל ואתו לא תכרת, כי האדם עץ השדה
לבא מפניך במצור" (דברים כ', פסוקים יט'-כ')

"When in your war against a city you have to besiege it a long time in order to capture it, you must not destroy its trees, wielding the ax against them. You may eat of them, but you must not cut them down..." (Deuteronomy 20:19)

The ruling of "Bal Tashchit", (you must not destroy) appears in the bible with regard to war, and how the Children of Israel should behave when going to war. Rabbinic commentary expands the rule of "You must Not Destroy" to include – food, clothes, dishes, belongings, etc.

The direct regard for the trees in this text, and the Rabbinic expansion of the rule lead us to the understanding of our wider responsibility to protect our environment.

Each one of the twinned classes lives in a different environment, with different concerns, however we share some concerns and responsibilities for the environment.

In this activity we will share with each other what our concerns for both local and global environmental issues, and what actions we take to make a difference to these.

For this activity we will use a collaborative workspace – PADLET split into three areas – Local environmental concerns, Global environmental concerns, actions we take to care for the environment. (To receive a tailor made Padlet board unique for your activity, with a link for sharing with your students please email us at – schooltwinningnetwork@jafi.org)

Designate each class with a color for its post-its, and give the following task to the students:

On the Padlet board sent to you Post three virtual “post-it” notes in the color assigned to your class based on the instructions detailed on the Padlet.

Browse through the notes other students wrote. “Like” the ones you agree with, and add a heart to the actions that you too take to help the environment.

Later in class you can discuss:

What is similar and what is different between your classes?

Who do you think holds the responsible for taking care of the global environment?

How can you raise awareness for these issues?

Here is a link to a video with some ideas of what we can each do to take better care of our environment - <https://youtu.be/vONBU7btYuo>