

Sukkot

Sukkot, along with Passover and Shavuot, are the three harvest (קציר) festivals in Judaism. Sukkot is a week long festival, which begins on the 15th day of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Jewish calendar. Sukkot commemorates (מנציה) the 40 years that the ancient Israelites wandered (נווד) in the Sinai Desert while living in temporary (זמני) homes before entering the Holy Land. In commemoration (לזכרון) of that time, Jews today build temporary structures (מבנים) called Sukkot.

Key Facts:

1. Sukkot actually means "booths" (ביתנים) in English and is the plural of Sukkah.
2. These booths (or Sukkot) not only remind Jews of their temporary dwellings (מגורים) in the wilderness but also of the impermanence (חוסר קביעות) of their possessions (רכוש) and lives.
3. The Sukkah is built to very precise (מדויק) specifications; it can only have three walls and they should be of temporary materials such as wood and cloth (בד). The Sukkah should be open on one side, its roof is usually made of branches (ענפים) and should be under the sky. The branches should give shade but not block out the sky completely.
4. Observant (שומרי מצוות) Jews eat their meals in the sukkah and also sleep there. It's customary to invite guests into the sukkah.

What do you think the temporary sukkah represents?

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Ministry of Education - Pedagogical Affairs - English Inspectorate