


## Worksheet: Religion and Tradition in the Ghetto

Visit the **Children in the Ghetto** website <http://ghetto.galim.org.il/> and click on


**Entrance** icon  .

Upon entering, you will see an imaginary street in front of you, this street represents the ghetto. You can navigate around the street with the arrows found on its sides.



- The highlighted drawings are portals to sections on various subjects regarding the world of the ghetto.
- Each section can also be viewed by clicking on the matching icon at the bottom of the street.

Above the bookseller's stand on the right, there is a lit up window wherein you can see a boy wrapped in a Talith (prayer shawl) who is putting on Tfillin (phylacteries). Click on the window to enter the **Bar/Bat-Mitzvah in the Ghetto** section.



(At the bottom of the street there are icons through which you can view the various sections. This section can be accessed by clicking on the icon  at the bottom of the street).

1. Read the explanation and look at the photograph next to it.

### Something to think about:

- In your opinion, what additional significance did the bar-mitzvah ceremony gain during the Holocaust?
- What were the problems faced by the children and their families who wished to celebrate a bar-mitzvah during the Holocaust?



We will try to answer these questions during the in class summation

2. a) Read the testimonies of Israel Ernest and Moshe Porath (**On Paper** icon  ) and complete the tasks at hand.  
b) Choosing from the testimony excerpts, what is in your opinion, the most important thing for the storyteller. Explain why you made this choice.
3. a) Look at the *talith* (prayer shawl) and the prayer shawl bag Yiji Bader received for his Bar-mitzvah (**Artifact** icon  ) and answer the questions next to them.

b) A question for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders: Why was Yiji's bar-mitzvah ceremony held when he was 14 rather than 13 years old?

b) A question for 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders: Yiji celebrated his bar-mitzvah when he was 14 years old because the year before, when he was 13 years old, his family could not perform the ceremony. In your opinion, why was it important for his family to celebrate the bar-mitzvah ceremony in the ghetto despite the fact that it was not celebrated at the right age?




- Return to the street (link on the bottom left hand side of the screen [Back to the street](#) .
- Scroll right with the assistance of the arrow  until you reach the end of the street. In the upper left hand window there is drawing of a Hanukkah: click on the link to enter the **Hanukkah in the Ghetto** section. (This section can be accessed by clicking on the icon  at the bottom of the street).



1.

Something to think about:

- What is a miracle?
- In your opinion, what did the word miracle signify for the children living in the ghetto?
- In your opinion, what additional meaning did Hanukkah have during the Holocaust?

We will try to answer these questions during the in-class summation.

2. a) Read the excerpt from Emanuel Ringelblum's writings (**On Paper** icon  ) and complete the tasks at hand.
- b) Emanuel Ringelblum wrote about events that took place in the ghetto during the Hanukkah holiday. Of the events mentioned, which ones remind you of the way Jews celebrate Hanukkah today?
- c) In light of what you read: why do you think it was important for the ghetto's residents to celebrate the Hanukkah holiday?  
What did celebrating the holiday symbolize for them?

3. Look at the photograph (**Photograph** icon  ) and the artifacts (**Artifact** icon  ) in this section, answer the questions and complete the tasks at hand.

4. **Summarizing Question:**

In your opinion, what role did holidays and tradition play for Jews coping with the Holocaust?