





Jewish-American Heritage Month

May 2024



“Fight for the things that you care
about, but do it in a way that will lead
others to join you.”

—Ruth Bader Ginsburg



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01

History

Background information regarding Jewish-American
History Month

Both a Nationality and Religion

Nationality

Religion

Definition of Nationality: the status of belonging to a particular nation

- Jewish nationality is influenced by ancestry, culture, and values.
- Jewish Nationality can be separate from Judaism. The practice is not mandatory to have Jewish nationality.

Definition of Religion: the belief in and worship of a superhuman power

- Judaism has many denominations, from orthodox Judaism, to denominational Judaism, to not recognizing it at all.
- Jewish people who practice Judaism often have deeper ties to the land of Israel because of the significance in the Torah
- Judaism is an ethnic religion in Israel, however not all Jewish folks practice it

Timeline

1980

The first set of Jewish American Heritage laws were introduced and pass in congress

2006

President George W. Bush proclaimed May Jewish American Heritage Month in 2006

2007

The Jewish American Heritage Month Coalition is formed. This group brings together organizations and parties that want to partake in the celebrations.

2010

Garrett E. Reisman was the first Jewish astronaut to go to space. He took with him the 2006 Jewish American Heritage Proclamation bill with him. It traveled around the world 186 days.

2018

The Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History became the official leads of JAHM and are in charge of organizing the month across the Nation.

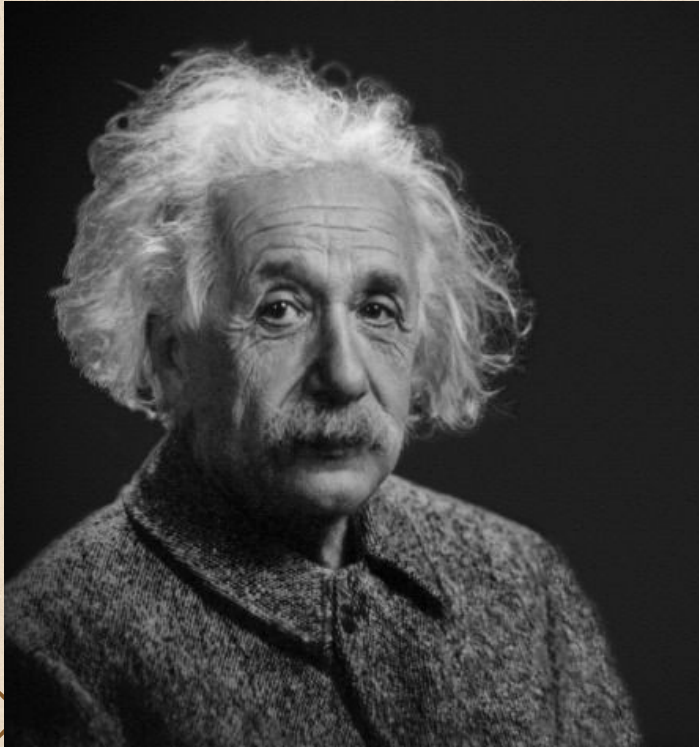
02



Notable Figures

Notable Jewish-American Figures

Albert Einstein



Theoretical Physicist

- 1879 - 1955
- Soon after Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany, Einstein left the country and settled in Princeton, New Jersey
- 1921: Nobel Peace Prize Winner

Ruth Bader Ginsburg



First Jewish woman on Supreme Court

- 1933 - 2020
- Second woman to serve on the Court
- Social icon, a champion for equal rights, and a historic trailblazer

Betty Friedan



American Feminist

- 1921 - 2006
- Wrote: *The Feminine Mystique* (1963) which explores the causes and frustrations of modern women in traditional roles
 - Book was an immediate and controversial best seller

Garrett Reisman



American Engineer

- 1968 - Present
- First Jewish crew member on the International Space Station

03





Lessons Plans and Resources


Sample Lesson Plans and Resources





Sample Lessons and Resources



1. Read and discuss literature by Jewish People
 - a. Poetry, Jewish Fiction Books, Children's Books
 2. Identify and learn about important people and events in Jewish American History
 - a. Lists of American Jews, 7 Inspiring Jewish Americans
 3. Learn about the ethnic, racial, language and religious diversity of Jewish people
 - a. Jewish Identity and Belief, Jewish Languages, Judaism
 4. Reflect on the Jewish Immigration Experience
 - a. Jewish Diaspora, Immigration and Identity, Three Waves
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- 



Sample Lessons and Resources, continued

5. Explore Art by Jewish People
 - a. Famous Jewish Artists, 20th Century, Jewish Museum
 6. Explore Jewish Music and Dance
 - a. Jewish Music, History of Jewish Dance
 7. Discuss Antisemitic Bias, Discrimination and Hate
 - a. History of Antisemitism, Views on Discrimination, A Guide to Old Myths
- 
- 



THANK YOU!

Did you try and enjoy any lessons in your classroom?

[Click here to submit student work to be showcased.](#)

