



The Israeli  
Time Challenge



# Teaching and training booklet

# The Israeli Time Challenge

## Guide Manual

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### Preparing for the activity

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You're invited on a journey through time, where you will encounter and learn about significant events and momentous eras in Israel's history.

The Israeli Time Challenge is an immersive escape-room type activity that takes participants through key moments in the history of the State of Israel, from its commencement to today. Participants will move through different eras, solve historic riddles, and uncover codes that unlock the time box on their way to completing the challenge.

### The Activity

Divide into groups: Divide the class/group into teams of five.

Entry barcode: Distribute the entry barcode tickets. They will enter the site after listening to the guide's instructions and watching the introduction video. The video can be shown to all participants together.

Getting started: Each group will receive a locked bag and an instruction booklet, along with newspapers that hold the first clue. Each riddle represents a decade, eight riddles in total, for the eight decades spanning from Israel's commencement to now. The answer for each riddle is a number that makes up a part of the code that opens the lock that takes players to the next stage. After solving all eight riddles for all eight decades, the group will complete the final code and finish the game.

First group to crack the code, wins.

Conclusion and discussion: We suggest having a group discussion about the experience and what the participants have learned from the activity. Attached are some guiding questions.

### Activity structure:

10 minutes – Briefing and explanation/video

35 minutes – Solving the challenge

15 minutes – Conclusion and discussion

### Important:

It is the guide's responsibility to prepare everything for each group at the start of the activity.

Do not use force to open the locks. If a lock does not open easily, the code is probably wrong.

If a group lingers on one riddle, they may ask the guide for hints.

### General Breakdown:

Phase 1: Opening the lock on the First Decade bag – 1948–1957

The first riddle is hidden in the newspapers and represents the first decade on the journey.

After opening the bag, the group will find:

- A locked box
- Props for solving the riddles

### Phase 2: Opening the locked box

The group will tackle three riddles, each related to a significant event that took place during a specific period.

To solve these riddles, you must use the props from the bag and consult the timeline on the floor. The solution to each riddle will produce a number. After all three numbers are deciphered and ordered correctly, the locked box can be opened.

### Phase 3: Other decades riddles

Inside the box are four riddles, each one representing a period in Israeli history and a significant historical event. You can solve the riddles in whatever order you choose; there is no need to follow chronological order.

The solution to each riddle will produce a number.

After solving all four riddles, the group will put the numbers in chronological order according to the events on the timeline and present their solution to the guide. If the code is correct, you will receive a key that unlocks the KKL box in the bag. Inside, you will find an object that will let you know you've completed the challenge.

## **Participant Debriefing**

Welcome to the Israeli Time Challenge! During this activity, you will pass through eight significant decades in the history of the State of Israel, from the Declaration of Independence until today. In each decade, you will tackle a riddle that will challenge you to reveal a number. This number makes up part of the code for opening the lock that will take you to the next phase.

### **Important notes:**

No prior knowledge needed, everything you need to solve the riddles is right in front of you.

Each riddle is standalone and independent of the other riddles.

Read carefully the information provided about your era in the timeline on the floor – it holds the clue to solving the riddle. You cannot solve the riddle without reading about the era.

Each lock comes with information hinting at the sequence of the numbers required to open it.

Do not use excessive force to open the locks! If you're struggling, talk to the guide. If the lock does not open easily, you probably have the wrong code.

When you input a code into the lock, make sure that the numbers are on the correct side of the lock (marked by a small line).

Do not scribble on the props. Keep all the props and items intact.

Your mission is to solve all the riddles, move through the phases, and crack the final code.

Good luck!

### **Plot**

Imagine a world where entire chapters of history vanish... They are no longer written anywhere, nor kept in any archive. Formative moments, victories, defeats – gone as if they never happened.

The year is 2026. The State of Israel is celebrating 78 years of independence, but something unexpected happened: The National Archives have been breached, and historical data files had been erased without a trace, official documents vanished, and testimonies given over the years have simply disappeared.

Is this some kind of technical error? An elaborate attack? Perhaps someone is deliberately trying to erase history? One thing is certain: we have to act, fast.

For this reason, the Heritage Defenders Unit was urgently assembled. A secret unit made up of the finest agents, sent to key moments in history to retrieve the lost information and replace it before it's too late.

Is it possible? Can we recapture what was lost?

Time is of the essence, and the mission is at full speed. The burden is heavy, and the future of Israel's heritage rests on your shoulders.

Your mission, time agents of the elite Heritage Defenders Unit, is to return to these crucial moments in the history of Zionism and the Jewish people, collect the fragments of the lost code, and retrieve our heritage before it is too late.

The challenge: Eight historical stops in time, one for each decade since 1948. At each stop on the journey you will find an encrypted riddle – a key to one part of the missing code. Only by solving all the riddles can you retrace the code and save the tale of Israel's establishment and evolution.

## **Equipment:**

### Starting point:

Central timeline – Banner laid out on the floor of the central hall, showcasing major events from each period, to be used by all groups throughout the game.

Reusable spiral number board to be used by participants for solving the code for each riddle.

Locked bag and newspapers enclosed in this manual. The first phase includes unlocking the bag by solving the first riddle, hidden among the newspapers.

### Inside the bag:

Locked box with additional riddles on each panel.

Props for solving the riddles – Passport, boarding tickets, magnifying glass, flags, and flag legend.

### Inside the locked box:

Four additional riddles, including a riddle sheet attached to the side of the box.

Additional props – notepad, 3D glasses, road map, model car, and a deck of cards.

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## **Challenge phases and riddle solutions:**

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### Bag:

#### 1948–1957 – The Declaration of Independence Riddle

Riddle: Participants receive newspapers containing clues for the numbers that make up the code to unlock the bag.

Answer: The numbers 4-6-8 open the bag (The number 4 represents the time at which the council gathered to make its declaration; the number 8 represents the last number of the year in which Israel was founded; and the number 6 represents the day of the week on which Israel's Declaration of Independence was presented).

Locked box:

1958-1966 – The Eichmann Trial Riddle

Riddle: Participants will need to find the year in which Eichmann fled to Argentina, using clues hidden in the passport and boarding tickets.

Answer: 0 (There are three boarding tickets, only one is correct – a boat ride from Germany to Argentina, where Eichmann hid. The year printed on the correct ticket is 1950, with 0 erased and replaced by a question mark).

1967-1975 – The Six-Day War Riddle

Riddle: Inside the bag is a magnifying glass. On the wide panel on the back is an illustration of the Western Wall with seven notes by seven different people. The notes are numbered 1-7.

Below the illustration is the riddle: Which note was written during the Six-Day War?

The correct note will read: "I cannot believe that I, Yaakov, a paratrooper, had the honor of liberating the Western Wall! June 7, 1967."

The timeline contains information about the liberation of the Western Wall by the paratroopers brigade. This information will lead players to the right note. The answer to the riddle is 4.

1976-1985 – Operation Entebbe Riddle

Riddle: Identify the flags of the countries involved in the incident (Israel, France, Uganda) and add up the numbers hidden among them.

Answer: 8 (1+3+4).

**The code for opening the first box: 0-4-8.**

1985-1995 – The Oslo Accords Riddle

Riddle: Arrange the figures around the table according to the guidelines.

Answer: Rabin (1).

Seating order (counterclockwise): Warren, Rabin, Clinton, Arafat, Peres, Abbas (circular).

1995-2005 – Ilan Ramon Riddle

Riddle: Identify the items that Ilan Ramon took with him to space from a list of items hidden in the notebook. Use the 3D glasses to find them. The number of hidden items is the answer.

Answer: 7.

2005-2015 – The Navigation Riddle

Riddle: A virtual course using Waze instructions leading to a number at the final destination. On weekdays, scan the barcode to listen to the navigation instructions. On weekends, read the navigation instructions off the board.

Answer: 7.

### 2015–2025 – The Events of October 7th Riddle

Riddle: Use symbols related to the war and hope. The symbols will be featured on the timeline banner on the floor (Correct symbols: Israeli flag, Hostages ribbon, IDF insignia, KKL logo, Nova party, map of Israel. Distractions: Flower, strawberry, racing flag). Players will have a deck of cards. Six of the cards will feature a creative representation of one of the correct symbols. Players must gather all the cards with symbols affiliated with the war.

Answer: 6.

### **Final code:**

After the groups solved all the riddles and have their numbers, they must put them in the chronological order of the eras. The code should be: 1776.

### **Final step:**

Players will input the code on the website or arrange the sequence on the spiral board and present it to the guide. If the code is correct, the guide will present them with a key. The group must figure out that the key unlocks the KKL box in the bag.

**Once the box is opened, the challenge is complete.**

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## Activity Conclusion: Discussion

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**The purpose of this part is to foster an open discussion among the participants and talk about the events from the challenge.**

The activity is a speed-run of events and information about the history of Israel. Participants encounter a mass of information in a short time, under pressure; the goal of the discussion portion is to process the events in a relaxed setting and raise significant points.

1. We will first go over all of the events. In the center of the circle, the guide will place notes inscribed with the years of the decade and the key event associated with it (including the specific year in which the event occurred). For example: 1965–1975, the Six-Day War (1967). The guide will read aloud each note as they place it down and provide a two-sentence explanation about the event.

2. Next, the guide will ask guiding questions whose purpose is to expand the discussion (note to guide: you will most likely not go through all the questions; pick the ones that seem best suited for your group and focus on those. We suggest letting every participant respond, whether spontaneously or by going around the circle):

- Were you familiar with all of the events?
- Which of the events were you not familiar with?
- Is there an event you wish to know more about?
- Did you find out something new during the activity?
- Was there anything particularly surprising?
- What thoughts did it bring up?
- If you had to go back in time to one of these historic events, which would you choose, and why?

3. Rounding up the discussion. We will talk about moving through the decades, from fighting for survival to revival after every crisis. From an eight-decade perspective, we will highlight how the People of Israel and the Jewish State have managed to leverage even the toughest events, rehabilitate, and grow from crisis.

4. At this point, the guide can share their personal connection to the State of Israel. We suggest that you focus on revival, hope, and anticipation of a better future.

5. Conclude by thanking the participants and expressing your appreciation.



