



GOOD NIGHT ISRAEL

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This board book illustrates Israel's natural and cultural wonders, showing the passage of both a single day and the four seasons while visiting the Western Wall, the Israeli Museum, the Dead Sea, the Red Sea, and Masada. Holiday traditions, such as making hamantaschen, are also shown.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

The holiday of Purim is celebrated by reading the story in synagogue, dressing in costume, putting on plays and eating hamantaschen, triangular, filled cookies. In Israel, Purim is observed by religious and secular Jews; it celebrates the rescue of the Jewish people by brave Queen Esther from annihilation at the hands of wicked Haman.

Places of Interest in Israel

Israel is an exciting blend of the ancient and contemporary. Here are just a few of the fascinating sites depicted in *Good Night Israel*:

Built by the Roman King Herod as a winter getaway, Masada is a fortress perched atop a plateau south of Jerusalem. In 73 C.E., a group of Jews sought shelter there from Roman troops. It borders the Dead Sea, which is so salty that people naturally float; it is uninhabitable by fish.

Nearby is Ein Gedi, an oasis and one of the most important nature reserves in Israel. It is a sanctuary for many plant, bird and animal species.

A shuk is an outdoor marketplace. The most famous shuk in Israel is Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda. Among the wide variety of goods available for purchase are fruits, vegetables, spices, baked goods, cheese, and fast foods.

Kibbutz is the Hebrew term for collective settlement. In the past, the kibbutz was often based on shared property and centered on agriculture. Today, many have become centers for tourism, with guest accommodations and recreational facilities.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

A great deal of wonderful information about Israel can be taken from the text and illustrations of this colorful board book.

Young children enjoy searching in books for familiar things. Together, look for pages that show animals, foods, colors, and various kinds of transportation. Ask your children what items in the book they have seen, and what ones could they see only in Israel.

There are so many fabulous

opportunities for little ones to count in this book! How many boats are on pages 1 and 2? How many watermelons appear on pages 3 and 4? What's the number of clouds on page 5, people on page 8, fish on page 10, or hamantaschen on page 16?

Many delicious Israeli foods are represented in this book, some of which might be new to your family. Plan an occasion to try some of them. The pomegranate, mango, and persimmon (pictured at the shuk) are fruits your little ones might enjoy. Or try making falafel. Falafel is a ball or patty generally made from ground chickpeas and spices, often fried and served in a pita. Falafel is commonly topped with salad or pickled vegetables, and drizzled with tahina (sesame paste). Recipes are available in cookbooks or online, and boxed mixes are available in many supermarkets.

Have you or someone you know been to Israel? This would be a great time to share photos. Try to find shots of people your children know, taken at sites illustrated in this book.