



SAMMY SPIDER'S FIRST TRIP TO ISRAEL

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As a stowaway on a little boy's model airplane, Sammy Spider joins the Shapiro family's sightseeing trip in Israel and uses his five senses to experience the country.

Sammy Spider's *First Trip to Israel* is a great book to introduce Israel to children of different ages. Not every child will want to read the whole book at one sitting.

With younger children, you might focus on the pictures of different kinds of places and relate them to places that you visit—for example: “Here’s a beach just like the beach we visit!” You might also point out different types of transportation, (airplane, bus, car, camel, etc.) or some of Israel’s unique landscapes (old cities, greenery, desert, beaches, the Dead Sea, etc.).

With older children, you might discuss or attempt more complex issues. For example, you might discuss what it’s like to travel to a new place, help them create a note/picture for them to “put” in the Western Wall, or make a typical Israeli meal like the one Sammy samples.

TEL AVIV

While Tel Aviv’s history dates back to the early 19th century, it was founded as “the first all-Jewish city in Modern times” in 1909. Situated on the coast of the Mediterranean, Tel Aviv is as bustling and busy as any big American city.

JERUSALEM

The capital of Israel, Jerusalem, which means City of Peace, is home to more than 700,000 people. The “Old City” is

located in the walled eastern section of Jerusalem and includes the Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Armenian Quarters. The Jewish Quarter is home to the Western Wall, the retaining wall and the last remaining piece of the Second Temple (destroyed in 70 C.E.)

KIBBUTZ

Kibbutz is Hebrew for “collective settlement.” While the *kibbutzim* (plural) of the past were often based on a system of shared property and centered on agriculture, many have left their socialist roots and have expanded to include other types of industry, such as textiles or tourism.

THE GALILEE AND THE NEGEV

Encompassing the northern area of Israel, the Galilee’s mountainous terrain is in stark contrast to the Negev desert located in Israel’s south. Use an atlas to find pictures of these two diverse landscapes.

ELIAT AND THE DEAD SEA

Perched on the southern tip of Israel and bordering the Red Sea, Eilat is a favorite vacationing spot for Israelis and tourists. The Dead Sea is a unique place: it contains water so salty that people float and fish can’t live. Pj