



WHY DOGS HAVE WET NOSES

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When Noah brought the animals on the ark, he didn't leave any of them out – even the slimy, creepy-crawly ones. He also invited a dog with a big, silly nose – and a sweet, kind disposition. So why do dogs have wet noses today? Well, it's kind of a funny story!

JEWISH CONCEPTS

Bereshit (“in the beginning” in Hebrew; also known as Genesis), the first book of the Bible, gives an account of a man named Noah who was charged with a vital task. In the narrative, God tells Noah that He is going to bring a massive flood upon the earth and that Noah must build an enormous ark, in which he and his family will escape the deluge. However, they will not be alone: God also instructed Noah to take two of every kind of creature – male and female – onto the ark: “Two of each shall come to you to keep alive” (Genesis 6:20). Noah was thereby given responsibility for the animals and had to gather a supply of food for them, as well as for the human passengers. When the construction and lengthy preparations were finished, Noah and his family entered the ark along with the animals, and the rain began...

As we see in *Why Dogs Have Wet Noses*, Noah and his family had their hands full during their time on the ark. With a multitude of creatures to feed and take care of, we can imagine them busily running here and there. The Torah (the first five books of the Bible) describes Noah as an exceptionally righteous man in his generation. His diligent care for the animals shows that respect and compassion were part of his righteousness. Noah's story reminds us of the responsibility we have to safeguard life, both human and animal. We can do this in our everyday lives – and on dry ground!

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Explore Noah's wet world together as a family with these activities:

Build your own ark – You are Noah and a flood is coming soon! Use pillows, sheets, blankets, furniture, and any other materials you'd like to construct an “ark” right in your own home. Gather stuffed animals and toys to ride along with you on your watery adventure. You might get hungry along the way, so remember to bring some food; enjoy a picnic together as you look out at the waves. Once you reach dry land, come out of the ark and explore the new landscape. The ground might still be soggy, so don't forget your rain boots!

Caring for others – Noah and his family took care of a boat full of animals for a long time! Think about a time when you have helped to take care of someone or something; it could be a person, animal, plant, or belonging. Using the wonderful illustrations in this book as your inspiration, draw a picture of yourself helping out.

Rainbow scavenger hunt – After the flood, God made a beautiful rainbow in the sky. Search your home to see if you can find an object for every hue of the rainbow. For an extra challenge, make it a race and see who can assemble a rainbow the fastest!