



Is it Sukkot Yet?

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How does fall feel?

Outdoor Living

Fall is here . . . and so is the weeklong harvest festival of Sukkot! Sukkot (Hebrew for “booths”) is the ultimate hands-on holiday. Before it begins, many families build their own sukkah, a temporary hut, outside their homes. Then, when Sukkot begins, people spend as much time as possible in the sukkah — eating, hanging out with family and friends, even sleeping! This book shows what it takes to make an official sukkah: at least two-and-a-half walls and a roof made of greenery called s’khach. Many families also decorate their sukkot with paper chains, lights, and fruits of the season. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/isitsukkotyet.

HANDS ON!

Make Pine Cone Decorations

Supplies:

- Pine cones
- Paint and paintbrushes
- Glitter (optional)
- Glue
- String
- Scissors

Gather some pine cones outside. Paint the pine cones in a variety of colors. If you like, make some extra fancy ones by dipping them in glue and rolling them in colorful glitter. After the glue dries, tie a string around each one and hang them in your sukkah or around the house as a fun fall decoration.

The Fragility of Life

A sukkah reminds us of the dwellings of our nomadic ancestors, a time when life could be harsh and uncertain. With its partial walls and sparse roof, a sukkah is open to the elements. We are meant to be able to see a starry sky through a sukkah’s ceiling! Today, many of us are lucky enough to live in strong, safe houses, but when we enter the sukkah, we are reminded that we are fragile, too. It’s a spiritual reality check wrapped in holiday joy — what could be better?

Shaking Things Up

The family in this book shakes a lulav (bundle of palm, willow, and myrtle) and etrog (citron) on Sukkot. Why? One explanation is that they represent different parts of the body. Willow leaves resemble mouths, myrtle leaves are shaped like eyes, palm fronds are straight like the spine, and an etrog reminds us of the heart. These anatomical connections call us to put our whole selves — body and soul — into waving the lulav and etrog. So, if you take up that lovely, fragrant collection of plants this Sukkot like the family in this book, be sure to give it all you’ve got!

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

HOW many different animals can you find in this book? What are the animals doing?

MANY friends and relatives join the family in this book in their sukkah. Who would you invite to be a guest in your sukkah?

WHAT parts of this family’s sukkah do you like? If you had a sukkah, what would you put inside of it?