

# Dinosaur on Shabbat

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## What makes a good host?

### A Special Guest...

There is a knock on the door and a guest appears—but this is no ordinary guest, and this is no ordinary day. Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, which begins at sundown on Friday night and ends Saturday night when three stars can be seen in the sky, is a time of peace, rest, and relaxation. Shabbat is mentioned in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) when God creates the world in six days and rests on the seventh. The seventh day is the first thing in the Torah to be called *kadosh*, Hebrew for “holy.” Dino gets ready for Friday night by cleaning up, putting on nice clothes, and setting the table for a Shabbat meal—just like millions of other families, all over the world.

### ...and a Special Time

During the week we get things done—we work, consume, and produce. On Shabbat, all that stops, and ordinary time transforms into something special. People (and in this case, dinosaurs!) light Shabbat candles, bless the day with *Kiddush* (sanctifying wine or grape juice), and eat challah, braided bread. Many people go to synagogue to pray and hear a portion of the Torah read aloud. Perhaps most importantly, Shabbat is a time for slowing down and being with family and friends. To learn more about Shabbat, visit [pjlibrary.org/dinosauronshabbat](http://pjlibrary.org/dinosauronshabbat).

### Don't Cry Over Spilled Grape Juice

When Dino spills his grape juice, his hosts take it in stride. There is a story of a rabbi whose Shabbat guest accidentally spilled a cup of wine. Before the embarrassed guest could react, the rabbi nudged the table with his leg and knocked over his *Kiddush* cup. “Oh, look!” the rabbi said, “I’ll need to get this table fixed.” It is a Jewish value to try hard not to embarrass your guests, human or dinosaur, in whatever gentle ways you can manage.

### Back to Business

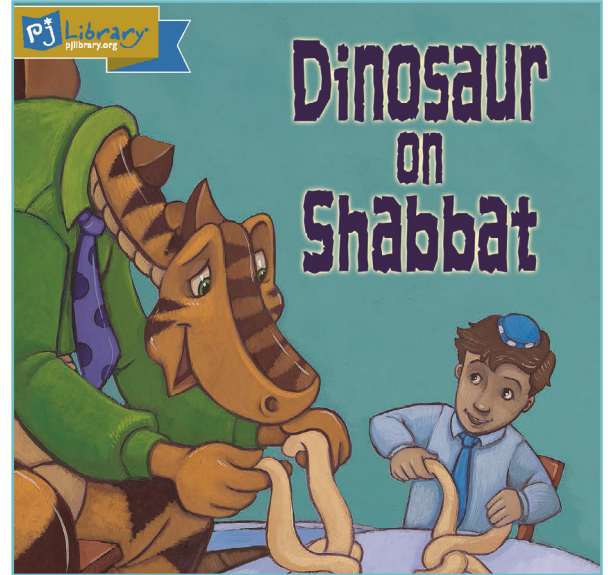
*Havdalah* is Hebrew for “separation,” and this ritual marks a separation between the sacred and the ordinary. Once *Havdalah* is finished, Shabbat is over and the regular week begins again, but the memory of that special Shabbat time lingers. In just one week, it will return to rejuvenate us. Taking a break from the ordinary is what Shabbat is all about—whether an actual dinosaur shows up at your door or not!

## TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

**H**ow is Shabbat different from other days in your house?

**H**ow does the dinosaur in this book celebrate Shabbat?

**W**hat story can you tell about a guest you hosted?



## HANDS ON!

### Make a Spice Sachet for Havdalah

Havdalah traditionally involves three ritual items: a braided candle, a glass of wine, and *besamim* (Hebrew for “spices”) in a special box or sachet. It’s easy to make your own spice sachet, and you probably have everything you need already.

#### Supplies

Broken cinnamon sticks, cloves, whole nutmeg, whole coriander seeds, or any sweet-smelling spices

Cheesecloth, tulle, or thin cotton fabric

Scissors

Rubber band

Ribbon

Cut a 10-inch/25cm square out of the cheesecloth, tulle, or fabric. Place a couple of tablespoons of spices in the middle, then gather the edges up and twist them together to close the sachet. Secure the sachet with a rubber band, then tie a short length of ribbon around it. *Shavua tov*—have a good week!