



# Pumpkin Pie for Sigd

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{ What feels like home to you? }

## Moving Up in the World

Anyone who has moved to Israel can tell you: It's a big move. And since its founding in 1948, the State of Israel has seen big movements of Jews from around the world. Waves of Jewish immigration started rolling in immediately – from Eastern Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and beyond. When you ask olim (the Hebrew word for immigrants to Israel) why they've come, the answers can be as different as the people themselves. Safety, freedom, the hi-tech industry, a new adventure -- whatever the reason, immigrants to Israel are described as having made aliyah, which literally means "going up." Maddie sometimes misses America, but as she connects with other olim from Ethiopia, Russia, India, and Mexico, Israel feels more like home. To learn more, visit [pjlibrary.org/pumpkinpieforsigd](http://pjlibrary.org/pumpkinpieforsigd).

## From Ethiopia to Israel

Beginning in the 1980s, Israel ran a number of secret operations to rescue the Ethiopian Jews and bring them home to a place they'd long dreamed about, the Jewish homeland. It was no easy journey; most Ethiopian Jews had to escape on foot to Sudan before they could board planes for Israel. Ethiopian Jews have had their own challenges in Israel, but have also contributed special things to their new home... like Sigd, which was declared an Israeli national holiday in 2008. In Ethiopia, people would climb to the top of a high mountain on Sigd. When they reached the top, they'd recite prayers expressing the hope that they'd return to Jerusalem. In Israel, the holiday is still observed by climbing to a high elevation, followed by a feast! Ethiopian Jews are adding their own vibrant colors to the patchwork quilt of Israeli culture.

## Israeli Salad

What do you get when you mix Jews from around the world together? Israeli salad! In Israel, unique Jewish traditions are generally retained (rather than thrown into a "melting pot"). In this story, Orly's family and friends show how the Ethiopian community brought their celebration of Sigd with them to Israel. And for Maddie and her family, continuing to celebrate Thanksgiving after their move to Israel is a (yummy) reminder of where they came from and the family they're still connected with abroad. What could be better than becoming part of something bigger than yourself...while still being yourself?

## HANDS ON!

### Share the Taste of Home

Many families have traditional foods that they like to eat on holidays or other special times. You can share those foods with your friends no matter where you live.

Supplies:

- Favorite recipe
- Paper
- Crayons/markers/colored pencils
- Cooking ingredients
- Kitchen
- Helping hands
- Friends to share with

Choose a favorite family recipe – one that feels like home when you eat it. Make an illustrated version of the recipe, drawing a picture for each ingredient (like Maddie and Orly do). Gather the ingredients and get cooking together, with adult supervision, of course! Invite some friends to try your dish and share why this food is special to your family.

## TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

**WHAT** do you think it would be like to move to a new country? What would you like about it? What wouldn't you like? What would you miss most from home?

**WHAT** are some of the special foods that Orly and her family eat at their Sigd feast? Does your family have special foods that you eat on special holidays or occasions

**IF** you were to move to a new country, what traditions would you bring with you to your new home?