DEAD SEA SCROLLS
LIFE AND FAITH IN ANCIENT TIMES

In partnership with:
What are the Dead Sea Scrolls?
Where were they found?
Why are they important?

The Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit invites you and your students to consider these questions and the impact of the Scrolls on our world today.

QUICK TIPS

• An optional audio tour is available for an additional charge.

• The exhibit exits into a gift shop where you will find a variety of items related to the special exhibition.

• On average, most groups will spend about 60 minutes in the exhibit, if carefully examining all of the artifacts. There is no reentry allowed. Restrooms are located near the exhibit entrance and exit, but there are no restrooms inside the exhibit.

• No photography is allowed inside the exhibit. No video or audio recording devices of any kind are allowed. Mobile phones and devices must be turned off in the galleries. No food or beverages are allowed.

During your visit to Dead Sea Scrolls: Life and Faith in Ancient Times, students will:

• Go on a journey back in time.

• See a collection of more than 600 artifacts.

• Explore a culture that is unlike our own, yet inspired much of how we live today.

After your visit to Dead Sea Scrolls: Life and Faith in Ancient Times, students will:

• Reflect on the meaning of the Scrolls.

• Think about how other people lived in other times.

• Understand that all people share common bonds, even if we choose to live our lives in different ways.
ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

The Dead Sea Scrolls: Life and Faith in Ancient Times exhibit presents one of the most comprehensive collections of ancient artifacts from Israel ever organized, featuring twenty scrolls including the oldest known copies of the Hebrew Bible and four never-before-seen scrolls. With more than 600 items on display, visitors will experience firsthand the traditions and beliefs of everyday life, as lived more than 2000 years ago. These fascinating artifacts, such as an actual three-ton stone from Jerusalem’s Western Wall, highlight the millennia-old traditions that continue to impact modern religions and society today. Included among the collection’s artifacts are the limestone capitals used in the architecture of the administrative centers during the first temple period (1006-586 BCE). Students will see artifacts from Jerusalem’s City of David, limestone Ossuaries from the early Roman period, and an ancient signature preserved for millennia on the Archer Seal. Together these artifacts reveal precious details about the culture, rituals, and beliefs of ancient Israel.

HOW TO PREPARE
Students should know that this is an extremely rare opportunity to see the objects on display. The artifacts that they will see are considered sacred to many people. The exhibit should be approached seriously and respectfully.

The information in this guide will help orient students and prepare them for the experience. Encourage your students to read the age-appropriate suggested books from the list included here. These books will acquaint your students with the Dead Sea Scrolls and the culture of ancient times.

WHAT ARE THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS?

The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of 972 documents found between 1947 and 1956 in caves near the Dead Sea. Many of the scrolls are copies of texts from the Hebrew Bible. The texts are written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Most are on animal skins, with some on papyrus or parchment. Modern carbon-14 dating has shown that they were written between 120 BCE and 68 CE.

Nobody is quite sure why, but in 1947 young goat-herders wandered inside a cave, perhaps in search of a stray goat; shade from the sun, or even hidden treasure. Whatever the reason, they made a remarkable discovery. They found an assortment of clay jars, inside of which were leather scrolls, wrapped in linen. Over the next nine years, archaeologists searched the surrounding caves, eventually assembling the full collection of documents that we know today as the Dead Sea Scrolls. They have been called the most significant archaeological find of the last century.
WHAT TO EXPECT

*Dead Sea Scrolls: Life and Faith in Ancient Times* is an exhibition of recovered artifacts, enclosed in display cases. The displays in the exhibit are “hands-off,” as the objects are far too rare and fragile to be touched. The exhibition is organized into sections, each of which is highlighted below.

All dates in the exhibit are presented using the international calendar convention of the Common Era (CE) which began with the year 1. Earlier history is expressed as Before the Common Era (BCE). Students may be more familiar with the conventions of BC and AD. The BCE and CE system is independent of religious belief and, therefore, more consistently used in scientific and academic presentations.

Genetic gallery

The exhibit begins with this scriptural passage, setting the scene for the exhibit: “The Lord said to Abram, ‘Go forth from your native land and from your father’s house to the land that I will show you.’” Genesis 12:1.

Desert orientation theater

You will be transported to the shores of the Dead Sea, where the scene is set for your journey back in time.

Back to the past: timeline gallery

From the present, we trace the history of Israel back to ancient times. Graphic panels, artifacts, and objects illustrate the story along the way. Finally, we reach the time of the Early Israelites, known as the Iron Age.

The scroll gallery

Three faiths—Christianity, Judaism, and Islam—share common faith in the texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls. It is in the Scroll Gallery that we see the common roots. The Scrolls Table is the centerpiece and highlight. The stone from Jerusalem’s Western Wall is also found here.

Biblical gallery

Here, we are immersed in the culture of the Early Israelites including a visit to a four-room house and an exploration of the objects of everyday life. It is at this time that nation-building also began and we see artifacts of national identity including monuments and fortresses. The importance of faith and religious practice is also evident in the temple artifacts, altars, and presentation of biblical music.

Epiologue gallery

We return to present day, left to reflect upon the significance of the Scrolls in our modern world. “Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. . . . I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed.” Genesis 26:3–5.
The answers to these questions are waiting to be discovered. Look closely at the objects in the exhibit to find them.

Your Quest! begins in the TIMELINE GALLERY.
1. When did the modern state of Israel declare independence?
2. When was the early Islamic period?
3. When was the time of the Early Israelites?

In the Biblical Gallery, find the HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES section.
4. What did the Israelites use to weave wool?
5. The average Israelite's diet included four foods. Name them.

Look for the BELONGING TO THE KING panel.
6. On many objects in the exhibit, you will see a four letter abbreviation that means “belonging to the king” in Hebrew. What is that abbreviation?

Look for the SCALES AND WEIGHTS panel.
7. What word was used to measure a weight of 11.4 grams?

In the Scroll Gallery, find the BONE GATHERING panel.
8. Limestone boxes were used to hold the bones of deceased people. What were these boxes called?

Look for the WHO WROTE THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS panel.
9. Scholars are sure that they know who wrote the scrolls. TRUE or FALSE

Find the large round SCROLL TABLE.
10. Name any one of the scrolls on display.

Find the STONE FROM THE WESTERN WALL panel.
11. The stone on display is from the ruins of the Second Temple of Jerusalem. In what year was the temple destroyed?

Look for the DISCOVERY THEATER.
12. In what year were the Dead Sea Scrolls found in a cave by a goat-herder?
Prepare for your visit to Dead Sea Scrolls: Life and Faith in Ancient Times by orienting students to the geography of the Middle East. Use Google Maps to look at the region.

**TRY THIS! Where in the World?**

1. Go to maps.google.com
2. Enter “The Dead Sea” in the search box.
3. Use the map’s view controllers to switch between satellite and map views, comparing the features of each.
4. Also, zoom in and out to show the outlines of the Dead Sea and the region.
5. Notice the topographical features of the map and how elevation levels are presented.
6. Locate Kalya, which, today, is the closest settlement to the site of the caves where the Scrolls were found. Kalya is along the Western shore of the Dead Sea, near its top.
7. Locate Jerusalem, which is West of Kalya.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

How far, approximately, is Kalya from Jerusalem?

Why might someone have chosen to hide the Scrolls there?

Do you think hiding the Scrolls in a cave by the Dead Sea was a good idea? Explain your answer.
TRY THIS!
PAPERMAKING!

Today, you can go to the store to buy paper when you want to preserve important information. Two thousand years ago, you would have needed to make papyrus or parchment before you could even begin to write your stories. Try making paper yourself. You just may realize how much more valuable every piece seems.

MATERIALS
• Paper Pulp (see below)  • Deckle Frame (see below)  • 2 Wash Basins  • Small Towels
• Blender  • Sponge  • Rolling Pin  • Iron

TO DO:
Make the Paper Pulp:
Fill one wash basin about halfway with warm water. Tear scrap paper into small pieces, approximately one-inch square, and add to the water. Construction paper, tissue paper, and paper towels work well. Keep adding paper until the water level is near the top. You should have a soupy mix. Let the paper sit overnight.

Make the Deckle Frame:
A deckle frame is the mold for the paper. The best option is a wooden frame with a wire screen stapled to it. You can also use an aluminum pan as the frame; cut out the bottom of it and then staple a wire screen to cover the opening. Another option is to shape a wire hanger into a rectangle; then, cut open nylon stocking and wrap it around the wire frame, stapling it into place. You could also use an embroidery hoop with nylon stocking tightened into it. Whichever frame you make, be sure that it is smaller than the size of your wash basin.

Make Paper:
Lay small towels beside the second, empty wash basin. Fill the blender about halfway with warm water. Add a heaping handful of your pulp. Blend slowly until you can no longer see individual pieces of paper. Empty the blender into the basin. Add more warm water to the basin and mix it thoroughly.

Submerge your frame into the mixture. Move it back and forth to get an even layer of pulp on the screen. Lift the frame up and let it drain. Use your hands to push more water through the screen. Keep patting it until it stops dripping. Use your sponge to wipe the bottom of the screen.

Flip your frame onto a towel and lift it gently away, leaving your paper sheet on the towel. Place another towel on top of it and gently apply pressure with the rolling pin to squeeze out the extra moisture. Leave the paper between the towels and let everything dry overnight.

To finish the paper, use your iron to flatten and smooth the sheet. Set the iron for dry pressing (no steam!) at a medium heat. Apply the iron to both the top and bottom towels, pressing it from top and then bottom. (Do not iron the paper directly!) Finally, pull the top towel gently away from the paper sheet and then carefully lift the sheet of paper away from the bottom towel.

Notes:
These instructions should enable you to make several sheets of paper. You will need two towels for each sheet you plan to make. Flat cotton dish towels work best. Avoid plush terrycloth towels. If you have extra pulp left over, you can freeze it for later use! If you don’t want to freeze extra pulp, put it out in the trash. Do NOT put it down your drain or garbage disposal.
DEAD SEA SCROLLS: LIFE AND FAITH IN ANCIENT TIMES
SUGGESTED BOOKS FOR K-12 CLASSROOMS AND LIBRARIES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Mystery of the Dead Sea Scrolls
by Hagit Allon ISBN 0827608004

The Dead Sea: The Saltiest Sea
by Aileen Weintraub ISBN 0823956377

Daily Life at the Time of Jesus
by Miriam Vamosh ISBN 0687048915

Qumran Caves: Hiding Place for the Dead Sea Scrolls
by Brad Burnham ISBN 0823962598

MIDDLE SCHOOL

With a Little Luck: Surprising Stories of Amazing Discoveries
by Dennis B. Fradin ISBN 0525471960

Walking the Bible: An Illustrated Journey for Kids
Through the Greatest Stories Ever Told
by Bruce Feiler ISBN 0060511184

HIGH SCHOOL

The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English: Seventh Edition
by Geza Vermes ISBN 0141197315

The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls: Their Significance
For Understanding the Bible, Judaism, Jesus, and Christianity
by James VanderKam and Peter Flint ISBN 0060684658

The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls
by Jodi Magness ISBN 0802826873

The Complete World of the Dead Sea Scrolls
by Philip R. Davies, George J. Brooke, and Phillip R. Callaway
ISBN 0500283710

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

The Digital Dead Sea Scrolls - dss.collections.imj.org.il
Scrolls from the Dead Sea: The Ancient Library of Qumran
and Modern Scholarship - www.loc.gov/exhibits/scrolls
The Qumran Visualization Project - www.virtualqumran.com
As one of the twentieth century’s most significant archaeological finds, the Dead Sea Scrolls are historically relevant in both ancient and modern terms. The exhibit presents both the discovery of the scrolls as an historical event as well as the stories they tell as documentation of an ancient culture. A visit to the exhibit, therefore, can help you serve varied curricular objectives. The following presentation suggests alignments with both the National Standards for History and the Curriculum Standards for Social Studies.

**National Standards for History**

**World History – Grades 5-12**

Era 3 – Classical Traditions, Major Religions, and Giant Empires, 1000 BCE-300 CE

**STANDARD 2** - The emergence of Aegean civilization and how interrelations developed among peoples of the eastern Mediterranean and Southwest Asia, 600-200 BCE.

**STANDARD 3** - How major religions and large-scale empires arose in the Mediterranean basin, China, and India, 500 BCE-300 CE.

**Curriculum Standards for Social Studies**

I. Culture

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of culture and cultural diversity.

II. Time, Continuity, and Change

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the ways human beings view themselves in and over time.

III. People, Places, and Environments

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of people, places, and environments.

IV. Power, Authority, and Governance

Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people create and change structures of power, authority, and governance.
As an artifact-based exhibit, Dead Sea Scrolls: Life and Faith in Ancient Times does not directly enable engagement with scientific content or phenomena. However, the collection of artifacts offers an opportunity for students to consider how people from another culture arranged their lives and attempted to make sense of their world. These practices encourage critical-thinking and analysis, two skills which align with national science standards.

**Next Generation Science Standards**

K: Weather & Climate  
3: Weather & Climate  
MS: Weather & Climate  
HS: Weather & Climate

**National Science Education Standards**

K-4 G: History & Nature of Science  
5-8 G: History & Nature of Science  
9-12 G: History & Nature of Science

**Benchmarks for Science Literacy**

7. Human Society  
7a. Cultural Effects on Behavior
National Standards for Arts Education

Visual Arts

Content Standard: 4: Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures.

Content Standard: 5: Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.

Content Standard: 6: Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines.

Exhibit Quest! Answer Key:
2. 638-1099CE.
3. Iron Age I (1200-1000 BCE).
4. grain, legumes, vegetables, meat
5. looms with clay weights
6. LMLK
7. shekel
8. ossuaries
9. false
10. Answers will vary depending on which are displayed during your visit.
11. 70 CE
12. 1947