

NACOEJ CURRICULUM ETHIOPIAN JEWS ARE PART OF THE WORLDWIDE JEWISH COMMUNITY

OVERVIEW OF THE NACOEJ CURRICULUM

The overall theme of the NACOEJ curriculum is: Ethiopian Jews are part of the worldwide Jewish community. Each topic may be taught separately. Ideally, all topics should be covered in order to provide a better understanding of Ethiopian Jewry's rightful place in the world's Jewish community. Teachers may also want to use a lesson's information and resources in other contexts. An *Informational Chronology*, *Informational Narrative*, *photographs* and music/dance downloads* (*Opus for Shoulders* and *Wedding*) are available (and a mailed video/DVD is available on request). These resources may be used by students for background information on Ethiopian Jews. The NACOEJ Curriculum Project is designed for students in grades six through high school. Lessons can easily be adapted for younger or older students.

Teachers may choose to use the scripted lesson plans or adapt them as a general guide for teaching students about Ethiopian Jews. They may wish to modify lessons based on the extent of students' response to issues raised in a lesson, or teachers may see ways to adapt the core elements of a lesson by appropriately relating them to their school's regular curriculum. It may also be desirable to spend more time than indicated on some lessons, even expanding one lesson to two class sessions.

Links for optional activities include a *List of Jewish Values* and additional information about Beta Israel holiday celebrations and religious rituals, as well as options for student journals and charts for thorough engagement in their learning. Each lesson also includes an option for the discussion of Jewish values appropriate for the topic.

The NACOEJ curriculum project, to date, includes three topics**:

1. Topic 1: The Plight of Ethiopian Jewry
2. Topic 2: Why Jews Migrated to Ethiopia: Myths, Legends and Historical Sources
(A Timetable and Map Study)
3. Topic 3: A Jewish Life Cycle Event: A Beta Israel Marriage Ceremony Enactment

*Eskesta - Beta Israel Dance Troupe

** All *italicized* items in the lessons may be downloaded from the main list of links.