

PASSPORT TO ISRAEL



Haifa is a busy port city in northern Israel. It is built on the slopes of Mount Carmel, which gives the city beautiful views of the Mediterranean Sea. Haifa also has nice beaches and green hills. It is a mixed city, where people from different backgrounds live together, including Jews, Christians, Muslims, Druze, and Baha'i.

The Bible tells an important story that takes place on Mount Carmel. In 1 Kings 18, the prophet Elijah faced off against the prophets of the false god Baal. Elijah challenged the people of Israel to choose who the true God was. He said the real God would answer by sending fire to burn the sacrifice. The prophets of Baal shouted, danced, and hurt themselves, but nothing happened. Then Elijah prayed to the Lord, asking God to show the people that He alone was God. God answered Elijah's prayer by sending fire from heaven that completely burned the sacrifice. Today, people can visit Mount Carmel National Park, where there is a statue of Elijah that reminds visitors of this powerful moment.

Jews have lived in Haifa for many centuries, and the city has a long and sometimes difficult history. It has been ruled by many empires, including the Crusaders, Mamluks, and Ottomans. In the years during and after World War II, many Jewish refugees tried to escape Europe after the Holocaust. Even though the British tried to stop them, brave ship captains brought Holocaust survivors to the land of Israel. For many of these survivors, Haifa's port was the first place they saw when they arrived home to Israel.

Today, Haifa is Israel's third-largest city and an important center for learning and innovation. It is home to the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, one of the top science and engineering schools in the world. Haifa is also famous for the Shrine of the Báb and the beautiful Baha'i Gardens, which are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Haifa is a city where biblical history, modern science, and many cultures come together.

MINI BRIDGE CHALLENGE (TECHNION ENGINEERING ACTIVITY)

FOR THE TEACHER

Description:

Students become engineers for a day, inspired by the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. Working in small groups, students are challenged to design and build a paper bridge that spans a gap between two desks or tables. Using only paper and a limited amount of tape, students must think carefully about shape, balance, and strength. Once time is up, each bridge is tested by adding weight (such as coins) to see how much it can hold before collapsing.

Resources Needed:

- Paper and tape for each group
- Coins, washers, or other small objects for testing
- Two desks or tables per group to create a gap

Instructions:

Students will design and build a bridge made only of paper and a limited amount of tape that can span a 1–2-foot gap between two desks or tables and hold as much weight as possible. Review the rules clearly before starting:

- Students may only use the provided materials.
- The bridge must rest only on the desks.
- Once testing begins, they may not touch or adjust their bridge.
- Students will have 20 minutes to complete the task.

Students will have 10 minutes to strategize before building and 10 minutes to build their bridges.

When time is up, test each bridge by carefully adding weight to the center. Count how many coins or how much weight it holds before breaking. The group with the strongest bridge wins the title of best designers!

