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## Shalom Al Yisrael Synagogue

On the mosaic floor of the ancient synagogue "Shalom Al Yisrael" one can see a seven-branched Menorah. To the right of the Menorah there is a Shofar and to the left, a Lulav. Underneath the Menorah is written "Shalom Al Yisrael" (Peace upon Israel). This synagogue's mosaic is special, in light of the fact that no human being or animal appears in it. This ancient synagogue is located in Jericho and was established in the late 6th/early 7th century. There are other opinions that it was established in the 3rd century, during the time of the Jerusalem Talmud. The synagogue was discovered during an archaeological dig in 1936. The synagogue received its name on account of the large mosaic floor that features the picture of the Menorah, and from the writing "Shalom al Yisrael".

**From which time period is this Menorah from?**

**Where does the Menorah feature in the synagogue?**



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## **The Menorah from the Digging at Migdal – Synagogue from the Second Temple Period**

An ancient synagogue dating back to the Second Temple period was discovered during archaeological diggings on the Migdal shore. A large stone engraved with a seven-branched Menorah is located in the middle of the synagogue. The ancient synagogue is large and contains stone benches and a mosaic floor. It is thought that the artist who engraved the Menorah on the stone saw the Menorah with his own eyes in the Temple in Jerusalem. According to the research in the field, this Menorah is the most ancient one known of.

**On what was the Menorah found?  
According to what did the artist carve the  
Menorah?**





## An Ancient Coin

The Hasmonean King, Matityahu Antigonus II, minted coins that were different to those minted before him. The coin featured the seven-branched Menorah from the Temple and was unique. Since 186, only 40 copies of this rare coin have been found. One of the unique things about the Hasmonean coins, and Jewish coins that came after them, is that the writing on them is ancient Hebrew writing, which was the accepted writing in the days of the First Temple, and also, that faces and figures do not feature on the coins.

**Who minted the shape of the Menorah on coins?**  
**What is special about the Hasmonean coins?**



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## Menorah Carving in the Herodian Quarter

Under the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem remains of houses have been found as a result of archaeological digging; ruined and burned as a result of the destruction of Jerusalem and the second Temple. Among the ruins, segments of plaster were found that would have covered the walls. On the plaster there is an engraving of a seven-branched Menorah. Whoever carved the Menorah lived in time of the second Temple, and had, most probably, seen the original Temple Menorah.

**In what time period did people live in the Herodian Quarter?**  
**Where was the Menorah discovered?**





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## The Menorah Plant – Sage

Sage is a plant that is used as a medicinal plant and edible herb, and is one of the oldest, most widespread plants in the land of Israel. Sage has a central branch from which pairs of branches branch out, one opposite the other, like the seven-branched Menorah in the Temple. There are those who claim that the sage plant inspired the form of the Menorah.

**How is the sage plant used?  
How did sage inspire the form of the Menorah?**



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## The Bet Shearim Menorah, Galilee

In Bet Shearim, in the lower Galilee, there was once an ancient Jewish city that was destroyed in the 4th century CE. It was in this city that ancient engravings showing many Jewish symbols were found, including an engraving of the Temple Menorah found in a cave. The city Bet Shearim was an important city in the 2nd century CE. Rabbi Yehuda HaNassi, president of the Sanhedrin and editor of the Mishnah, lived in Bet Shearim and contributed towards its status.

**What was found on the engravings of Bet Shearim?**  
**Why do you think Bet Shearim was an important city?**



© Olivier Levi

## The Temple Institute Menorah

The Temple Institute Menorah was built according to the guidelines in Jewish law, as described in the Torah. The seven branches of the golden Menorah were lit by the Cohen in the Temple. Originally, the Temple Institute Menorah was built from bronze and covered in pure gold. This Menorah can be used in the Temple according to Jewish law and is displayed today in the Jewish Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem. The Temple Institute reconstructs the Temple utensils and works to raise awareness of the topic of the Temple.

**How did they decide that this was how they would build the Menorah?**  
**What can this Menorah be used for in the future?**





© From the site of the Israeli Knesset

## The Seven Species Menorah in the Knesset

The Seven Species Menorah is displayed in the Knesset in Jerusalem. The multidisciplinary artist Eliezer Weishoff created the statue, and it was a gift from the JNF to Israel, in honor of the 50th year of the Knesset's founding in 1999. The base of the Menorah is made from the trunk of the olive tree, symbolizing the roots of the Jewish people in their land. Seven bronze branches ascend from the wood in the shape of the seven species, symbolizing the growth of the Jewish people in their land.

**Where is the Seven Species Menorah?  
What does the olive tree wood and the  
seven branches of the Menorah  
symbolize?**





## The Symbol of Beitar Jerusalem

The symbol of the Menorah has represented the Beitar Jerusalem football group throughout the years, as a continuation of the Menorah symbol representing the Beitar youth movement. The Beitar youth movement is an acronym for "Brit HaNoar Halvri Al Shem Yosef Trumpeldor" ("The Jewish Youth Covenant of Joseph Trumpeldor") and was the youth movement of the Revisionist Movement before the establishment of the state of Israel. The movement was named after Joseph Trumpeldor, who symbolized Jewish bravery in the modern age, and after the fort of Beitar which fell in the Bar Kokhba revolt, symbolizing Jewish bravery in ancient times. Throughout the years the symbol of the group was changed, but the words Beitar Jerusalem and the symbol of the Menorah were always integrated into it in varying ways, time after time. Additionally, in its early days, the group was nicknamed "The Menorah".

**What symbol is the symbol of Beitar Jerusalem based on?**



## The Knesset Menorah

The Menorah sculpture that stands opposite the Knesset in Jerusalem depicts 27 different events that tell the story of the history of the Jewish people throughout the generations. The sculpture is designed in the form of the Menorah that features on the Arch of Titus in Rome, in order to signify the home-coming of the Menorah to Jerusalem. The Menorah was presented to the state of Israel by the British Parliament in 1956 and was created by Benno Elkan in honor of the then-young state of Israel. The Knesset Menorah is made from bronze and is about five meters high.

**What is displayed on the Menorah?**

**This Menorah was created similarly to which Menorah?**





## The Emblem of Israel

In the center of Israel's emblem is the seven-branched Menorah surrounded by an olive branch on either side of the Menorah, and under the base of the Menorah appears the writing "Israel". The inspiration for the emblem came from the book of Zechariah, from the verse "I have seen and behold a candlestick all of gold...and seven lamps upon the top...and two olive trees by it" (Zechariah, 4:2-3). The olive tree branches on the sides of the Menorah symbolize the aspiration for peace, like the olive tree branches in the story of the flood in the days of Noah, when the dove returns with a branch of the olive tree in its beak. The Menorah is designed like the Menorah that appears on the relief on the Arch of Titus in Rome, as if to announce that it is returning to Jerusalem.

There were many submissions for the design of the emblem of Israel, but in the end, Gabriel and Maxim Shamir's proposal was accepted.

**Where was the idea for the Menorah as the emblem taken from?**

**What Menorah is the emblem Menorah based on?**



## The Arch of Titus Menorah

The Arch of Titus is a triumphal arch that was built in Rome to commemorate the Romans' victory over the Jewish people and the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem in 70 CE.

Among the reliefs on the Arch of Titus is a relief portraying the parading of the Menorah that was taken as part of the spoils from the destroyed Temple. This Menorah is the most detailed documentation of the Temple Menorah known of until the present day.

**What does the transportation of the Menorah on the arch signify?**

**Which Menorah appears on the arch?**





## Ten Agorot Coin

One of the sides of the ten agorot coin shows the seven-branched Menorah. This style of Menorah was taken from the Pruta coin of Matityahu Antigonus II who was the Hasmonean king who ruled during the time that the Romans ruled in the land of Israel. After the Romans rose to power, there was still a short period in which the Hasmoneans ruled. This coin is the lowest-valued coin in use today in Israel.

**Where was the style of the Menorah on the coin taken from?**

**Which Menorah appears on the coin?**