

ROSH HASHANAH MINI-FESTIVAL

WARM-UP → PLAY → REFLECT

MATERIALS (SUPER LOW-PREP)

- Paper + pencils/markers
- Rosh Hashanah activity bingo card, the word search, and the coloring page
- Fact sheet
- Certificates (recommended: kids can show their after-school achievement to families and feel proud)

1

WARM-UP — PLAYFUL, NO “TEACHING”**3–5 MIN****Script you can read:**

“We’re doing a tiny fresh-start celebration called Rosh Hashanah. It means ‘head of the year.’ Many Jewish families celebrate it in early fall. Ready for some quick, happy activities?”

Pick ONE quick starter:

- **Group shout (10s):** On 3, everyone says “Shanah Tovah!” (then try “Happy New Year!”).
- **Quick draw (60s):** On the board, draw an apple + a honey drop + a curvy horn (shofar). Ask, “What do you think this festival is about?” (No right or wrong—keep it moving.)
- **Guess in place (30s):** “If a sweet new year sounds nice to you, do one silent jump or give a thumbs-up!”

2

PLAY — CHOOSE ONE PATH**15–45 MIN**

(If kids are loving it and you have time, run them all in a row.)

Path A: Activity Bingo (high-energy)

- Hand out one Bingo card per student (or play in pairs/triads).
- Goal: 4 in a row. Set a 10–15 min timer. Light music helps.
- When someone finishes, they call “Shanah Tovah!” They can start another row, move to the next path, or help a friend.

Path B: Word Search + Doodle (calmer)

- Give each student a word search (solo or pairs).
- When finished, circle a favorite word (APPLE, HONEY, SHOFAR, SWEET, FAMILY, CHALLAH...) and add a 20-second doodle with a tiny caption.

Path C: Color & Tell (art-first)

- Hand out the coloring page. Invite kids to add small Rosh Hashanah symbols around the border (apple + honey, round challah, a tiny shofar).
- Quick pair share: “One wish I have for the world this year is ____.”

3

REFLECT — FAST & FEEL-GOOD**3–5 MIN**

Choose ONE:

- **High-five checkout:** Turn to someone and say one new thing you noticed.
- **Thumbs check:** 👍 = “I learned a little,” 👍👍 = “I learned a lot!”
- **One-word exit:** Each student says one “fresh-start” word (sweet, new, kind, hopeful...).
- **Celebrate:** Hand out certificates and, together, say “Shanah Tovah!”

TINY TIPS

- Sign each certificate with a short positive note (e.g., "You're great!").
- Let kids take their activity sheets and trivia page home.
- Optional bonus: run 3–5 quick trivia questions between paths.

TRIVIA QUESTIONS

WITH ANSWERS

● **What does "Shanah Tovah" mean?**

A) Happy birthday B) Good year C) Good night D) Big party

Answer: B

● **Rosh Hashanah starts each day at...**

A) Sunrise B) Sundown C) Lunchtime D) Midnight

Answer: B

● **Which one is NOT a common Rosh Hashanah symbol or food?**

A) Apples in honey B) Round challah C) Shofar D) Pizza

Answer: D

● **Tashlich is a tradition where people...**

A) Toss crumbs into water to let go of mistakes B) Light fireworks C) Carve pumpkins
D) Hide eggs

Answer: A

● **The shofar is...**

A) A drum B) A ram's horn C) A flute D) A bell

Answer: B