

MEMBERSHIP

MIT/AIT Curriculum: Session 1 | Our History: Getting to Know Our Roots

Get to know the history of AZA & BBG, the principles of our Movement, and the values that BBYO stands for. [Click here](#) to access an overview of the MIT/AIT Curriculum and other sessions.

Session 1 | Our History: Getting to Know Our Roots

Video[Get to Know BBYO | Episode 1: Our History](#)

Topic Overview

The Aleph Zadik Aleph (AZA) and the B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG) are BBYO's renowned leadership programs and foundational fraternity and sorority models for Jewish teens in grades 8-12. Founded in 1924 and 1944 respectively, AZA and BBG have been transforming the lives of Jewish teens for over 90 years. The **Seven Cardinal Principles** (AZA) and **Menorah Pledge Principles** (BBG) were developed by our founding members to give every Jewish teen a chance to grow and become a better person through participating in programming led by their peers.

Through building safe and welcoming opportunities for learning and growth to **all Jewish teens** regardless of background, denominational affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status that are inclusive of those with a range of intellectual, emotional and physical abilities, AZA and BBG provide an ever-expanding menu of opportunities to explore Jewish identity and build lasting ties to Jewish life.

Icebreakers

- **Games**
 - **Jenga** - Customize your own Jenga set (big or small!) to include "get to know you" questions on each side of the brick. Each time someone pulls out a brick from the tower, they need to answer the question for the group.
 - **Make a GIF** - Everyone should use their phone and choose a photo that represents a fact, personality trait or interest that they have (bonus points if they're actually in the photo). Then, have them head to makeagif.com or giphy.com/create/gifmaker and have them make a GIF! Share it out with the group.
- **Mixer Questions**
 - If you were to have a theme park about your life, what would be the feature exhibit?
 - What's the story behind the image on the background of your phone?

Red/Blue Books

History of the Aleph Zadik Aleph | Page 26 (**Blue**)

Herstory of the B'nai B'rith Girls | Page 26 (**Red**)

Seven Cardinal Principles | Page 23 and Back Cover (**Blue**)

Menorah Pledge Principles | Page 23 and Back Cover (**Red**)

Activities

- **Hunting for the Past** - Create a multi-stop scavenger hunt around town, inside a big store, at the JCC, or in MITs/AITs own homes (if you're running it virtually) that introduces MITs/AITs to members or alumni in the community or sends them on a hunt for objects that represent our Order. Each stop should include clues about our history and/or objects they collect to build something at the end of the hunt.
- **Getting History in Order** - Assign small groups one principle or date in our history to act out (you can engage upperclassmen or other board members in this too!) to teach other groups about our Order.
- **Timeline Shuffle** - Print off the AZA and/or BBG Timeline and blackout or remove the dates (or put the moments on a Padlet that people have to drag-and-drop, if virtually). The first team to order them correctly wins a prize. Add a twist by having MITs/AITs not talk to each other (or sing AZA/BBG songs) while they put the dates in order. At the end, have every team or MIT/AIT share which event is their favorite.
- **Game Show** - Divide the MITs/AITs into teams to showcase their knowledge of our Order. Play whatever style feels best - Family Feud, Jeopardy, Kahoot or more!
- **Principled Charades** - Divide the MITs/AITs into teams and have them take turns playing charades with the Menorah Pledge and Cardinal Principles. Who will be able to best represent the founding values of our Movement?

Related Resources

- [Timeline of the Aleph Zadik Aleph](#) (see [Blue Book](#), page 26)
- [Timeline of the B'nai B'rith Girls](#) (see [Red Book](#), page 26)
- Menorah Pledge Principles and Seven Cardinal Principles (see [Red Book](#) and [Blue Book](#))
- [International Motion, Re-Commitment to Gender Inclusivity and Pluralism](#)
- [Founders Day Declaration Video \(Menorah Pledge + Cardinal Principles\)](#)