



JODIE'S FIRST DIG

Written by Anna Levine

Illustrated by Ksenia Topaz

Jodie dreams of one day becoming a famous archaeologist. When her father takes her on a dig in Modi'in, home of the Maccabees, she is able to participate in a unique way.

You can offer your children a taste of the excitement that Jodie felt when participating in an archaeological dig. Provide a “site”—a sandbox at a nearby park or a large box filled with styrofoam packing peanuts. Buy objects for your budding archaeologist to uncover. Your children’s “finds” might include colorful plastic *dreidels* (spinning tops used at *Hanukkah* time) or pieces of a broken flowerpot (symbolic of ancient cooking pots). Armed with plastic beach toys for digging and an old paintbrush, your children are ready to explore sites in ancient Israel!

Travel to Israel in the comfort of your home! Create the interior of an airplane from El Al (official airline of Israel), then “fly” with your children to Ben Gurion Airport just outside Tel Aviv, Israel’s second-largest city. From there it’s just a hop, skip, and jump to many archaeological sites. This is also a great opportunity to introduce children to a map of Israel, on which you can point out major cities, large bodies of water (The Mediterranean and Dead Seas, for example), and neighboring countries of the Middle East.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ISRAEL

While the story of *Jodie’s Dig* may seem a bit farfetched to some of us in the United States, it is actually quite believable given the book’s setting in Israel, where digs are commonplace. Each year, tens of thousands of people—including children—experience the excitement and satisfaction of participating in digs. Modern Israel is literally built on the ruins of the ancient land, which means that amateurs taking part in excavations may well make actual finds. In some areas of the country, laws require that “rescue digs” take place before any new construction, in order to protect and preserve any buried antiquities. Pj

LEARN MORE
PJLIBRARY.ORG/FAMILIES

VISIT
Pj Library’s
FAMILY
Section