

## Program Summary

Possible title: Divergent Histories

The goal of this program is for participants to learn and understand more about different types of Jewish backgrounds, and to break apart stereotypes about Jews within the Jewish community.

It would start with a Kahoot! game, although no questions would have correct/incorrect answers. Questions would be in the form of agree/disagree statements. The idea is to get a feel for how much the room knows already/what people think coming into this activity.

Here are some example questions:

- Most Jews have grandparents or great-grandparents who, to some extent, spoke Yiddish.
- I have heard the terms “Ashkenazi” and “Sephardic” used to describe groups of Jews.
- I identify as an Ashkenazi Jew.
- I identify as a Sephardic Jew.
- I have heard the term
- Most American Jews tend to be politically liberal.
- Matzo ball soup is a Jewish staple food.

And so on.

Then people would break out into discussion groups and talk about anything they noticed about the data on the screen for the various questions (Kahoot! displays the number of each answer received), or about the questions in general. While this discussion is intended to be free-flowing, group leaders will have 3–4 discussion questions based on the Kahoot! to prompt conversation if needed. This discussion should take no longer than ten minutes.

Coming back together (or staying in groups but looking at front of room, depends on space), a video would play highlighting elements of Ashkenazi culture, Sephardic culture, Mizrahi culture, followed by discussion in the same groups about the video. If a suitable video cannot be found, we would have adult speakers from each ethnicity speak for 5-10 minutes each. This whole section should take 30 minutes (including time for questions if live speakers).

For a conclusion, another Kahoot!, this time with correct answers, and the top 3 winners get some exclusive merch. Questions for this one would be facts about different Jewish cultures/ethnicities, some from the video/speakers and some random trivia.

Example questions for this part:

- What language did Sephardic Jews historically speak? (Ladino)
- What area of the world do Mizrahi Jews come from? (The Middle East)
- What’s another term for a Jew from Israel? (Sabra)
- In what capacity did Ashkenazi Jews historically speak Hebrew? (Only for prayer/sacred occasions)

Finally, and as a transition, the program leader and/or Head Songleader speaks for 2–3 minutes about the Abayudaya Jews in Uganda and musician Noam Katz’s time spent learning from them. The song leaders will teach the song “Mirembe, Salaam v’Shalom” by Noam Katz, followed by “Am-eh Yisrael-eh Chai” by Noam Katz, leading into a standard song session.