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DEI Educational Resource
Happy Sukkot: Feast of Tabernacles Quick Facts Sheet

1. **What is Sukkot?**

   Sukkot, also known as the Feast of Tabernacles or Feast of Booths, is a Jewish holiday that celebrates the harvest and commemorates the Israelites' 40 years of wandering in the desert after leaving Egypt.

2. **When is it Celebrated?**

   Sukkot begins on the 15th day of Tishrei in the Jewish calendar, usually falling in September or October, and lasts for seven days.

3. **Significance of Sukkot**

   It celebrates God's protection and provision during the Israelites' time in the wilderness, highlighting themes of gratitude and faith.

4. **What is a Sukkah?**

   A sukkah is a temporary hut built outdoors during the festival. It symbolizes the fragile dwellings the Israelites lived in during their journey.

5. **The Four Species**

   Jews traditionally use four types of plants—etrog (citron), lulav (palm branch), hadas (myrtle), and aravah (willow)—to perform a waving ritual during Sukkot prayers, symbolizing unity and blessings.

6. **Alternate Names**

   Sukkot is also referred to as the "Feast of Ingathering," marking the end of the agricultural season and the gathering of crops.

7. **Command to Rejoice**

   Sukkot is a joyful celebration, and the Torah commands the Jewish people to rejoice and give thanks for God's provision.

8. **Pilgrimage Festival**

   It is one of the three biblical pilgrimage festivals (Shalosh Regalim), during which Israelites historically travelled to the Temple in Jerusalem.

9. **Hospitality (Ushpizin)**

   During Sukkot, it is a custom to invite guests, both real and symbolic (like biblical ancestors), into the sukkah, emphasizing the values of hospitality and community.

10. **Simchat Torah**

    Sukkot concludes with the holiday of Simchat Torah, when Jews celebrate the completion and restart of the annual Torah reading cycle.