

מסכת
סוּפָה
 דף י"ד

DAF YOMI 4 Kids

Inside the Daf

How solid a roof may a סוּפָה have?

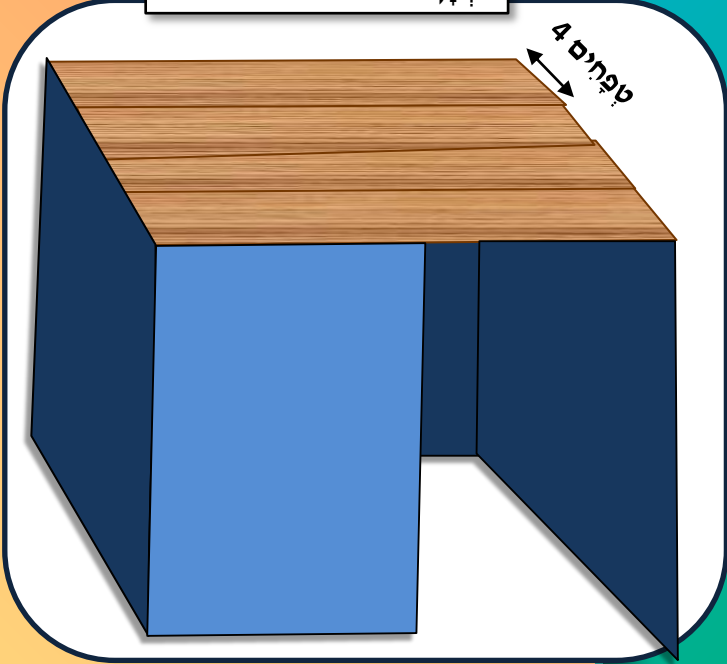
Our מְשֻנָּה tells us that רַבִּי יְהוֹדָה allows planks of wood to be used as סָכָךְ (covering) while רַבִּי מְאִיר forbids it.

In explaining this מְשֻנָּה, the גְּמָרָא quotes the opinion of רַב who says we are talking about whether or not a plank that is 4 טַפְחִים (handbreadths) wide (about 14 in, or 9 cm) can be used as סָכָךְ. רַבִּי מְאִיר forbids its use as a סוּפָה covering because that is the width of most planks used to build house ceilings. If we would allow such planks as סָכָךְ, people may just start using their houses as סוּכוֹת thinking they are performing the מִצְוָה of dwelling in a סוּפָה!

רַבִּי יְהוֹדָה tries to prove that these planks may be used: When the Romans ruled in the Land of Israel and banned the performance of all מִצְוֹת, Jews would disguise a סוּפָה as a porch and cover it with boards that were 4 טַפְחִים wide. We see from here, says רַבִּי יְהוֹדָה, that such planks are valid as סָכָךְ!

The גְּמָרָא rejects this proof. Perhaps these planks were used only in a time of danger. In more peaceful times, who is to say that we may use them?

Wooden Planks as סָכָךְ

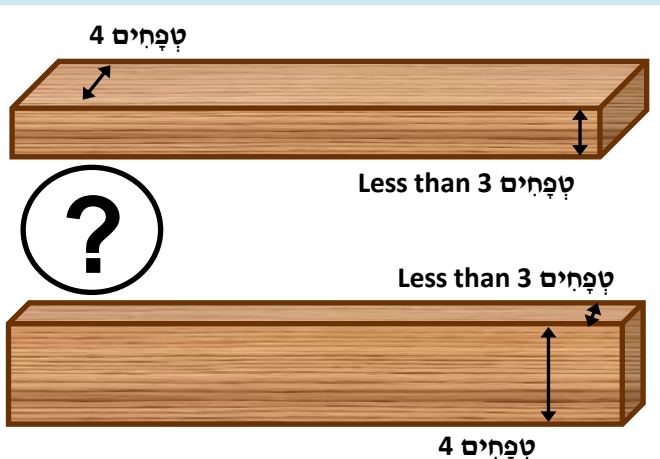


Did You Know...

The Torah refers to the prayers of a צַדִּיק (righteous person) as a pitchfork. Just like a pitchfork overturns hay, the prayers of the righteous can turn Hashem's harshness into mercy.

WORD OF THE DAY:
מִצְטַרְפִּין
 "WE ADD TO IT"

On the Side



Now that we have learned that a plank of wood 4 טפחים wide may not be used as סָקָךְ (see "Inside the Daf"), רב חסדא and רב הונא teach us that a plank 4 טפחים wide but less than 3 טפחים high may be turned on its side to be used as סָקָךְ. This is because the width of the plank would now be less than 3 טפחים, which, according to all opinions, is a valid width for סָקָךְ (מהרש"א).

רב הונא, however, disagrees. Since 4 טפחים wide planks were already disqualified as סָקָךְ, it doesn't help to turn them on their side.

When רב נחמן visited the Babylonian city Sura, רב חסדא and רב הונא asked him if the boards could be turned on their sides for סָקָךְ. רב נחמן answered that they may not because they are now like metal spikes, which, of course, could not be used as סָקָךְ. This confirmed רב הונא's opinion that once the boards are disqualified, they may not be used in any position. When רב נחמן heard what רב הונא said, he turned to his colleagues and said, "Did I not tell you רב נחמן would follow my opinion?"

A מְדוּת Moment

Yaakov was having a tough school year. His grades were failing, he wasn't understanding his classes and lately he was skipping school.

But toward the middle of the year, everything started to change. His grades got better and he was attending all of his classes. The secret? His teacher, Rabbi Rabinovitch. The rabbi had seen the child struggling and spent extra time with him to explain the material at his level.

Yaakov and his father were very thankful.

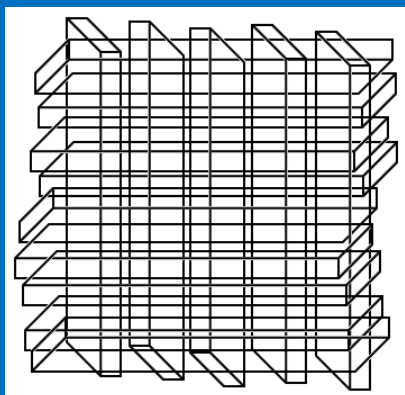
"What inspired you to help my son so much," asked Yaakov's father.

"From something I learned in daf yomi today," replied the rabbi. "A סוּכָה that has a hole in it from which a young goat may escape is invalid. In many places, the גְּמָרָא compares children to young goats. So, symbolically, the גְּמָרָא is telling us to teach the children about the holiday in a way they can understand and not to let them 'escape through the cracks!'"

(מרגליות הש"ס תש"ס)

Games

How many planks can you find in the picture?



Review Questions – סוכה דף י"ד

1. What type of planks does רבבי מאיר forbid and רבבי יהודה allow?

2. How are the prayers of the righteous like hay?

3. May planks 4 טפחים wide be turned on their side and used as סָקָךְ according to רב נחמן?