

# Fun Facts About...

## Be'er Sheva

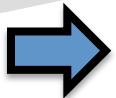
### באר שבע



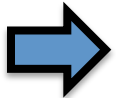
Beersheba



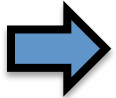
The name Be'er Sheva comes from “The Well of the Oath” that Abraham made to Abimelech in the book of Genesis.



The site was probably chosen due to the abundance of water, as evidenced by the numerous wells in the area; according to the Bible, Abraham and Isaac dug the wells when they arrived there.



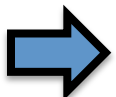
Capital of the Negev



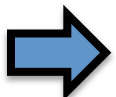
Ben-Gurion knew this region was needed if the state was to grow. He also had faith that the desert could be tamed and turned into a place where Jews could settle and prosper.



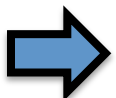
There are approximately 10,000 Ethiopian Jews who live in Be'er Sheva. They came through the 1982 airlift of Jews from Ethiopia.



Be'er Sheva has more grand masters in chess than any city in the world.



Be'er Sheva was the home of Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut who died in the Columbia disaster.



Home of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

