

Teacher Overview Objectives: *Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*

NYS Social Studies Framework Alignment:

Key Idea	Conceptual Understanding	Content Specification	Objectives
<p>10.7 DECOLONIZATION AND NATIONALISM (1900–2000): Nationalist and decolonization movements employed a variety of methods, including nonviolent resistance and armed struggle. Tensions and conflicts often continued after independence as new challenges arose. (Standards: 2, 3, 4, 5; Themes: TCC, GEO, SOC, GOV, CIV,)</p>	<p>10.7c Nationalism in the Middle East was often influenced by factors such as religious beliefs and secularism.</p>	<p>Students will examine the creation of the State of Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict.</p>	<p>1. Explain the historical roots of the conflict in Israel-Palestine.</p>

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Why is there conflict in Israel-Palestine?

Objective: Explain the historical roots of the conflict in Israel-Palestine.

Introduction

Directions: Write down what you already know about the conflict between Israel and Palestine, then [use the CBSNews excerpt](#) to complete the “See, Think, Wonder” activity.



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Israeli-Palestine conflict intensifies

JULY 9, 2014, 5:38 PM | Col. Jeff McCausland (Ret.), CBS News Military Analyst, discusses the rising violence in the Middle East between Israel and Hamas.

1. What do you already know about the conflict between Israel and Palestine?

2. See and Hear

Write down observations about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the video.

3. Think

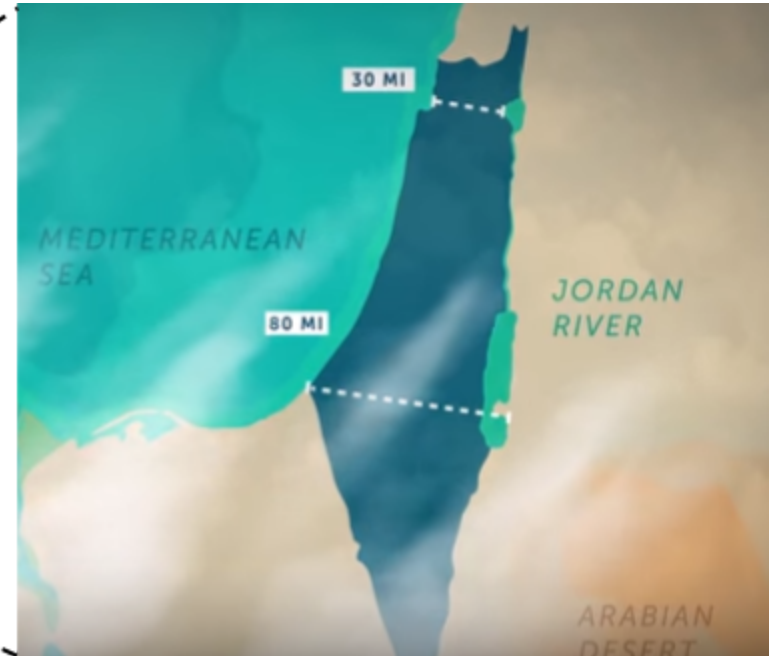
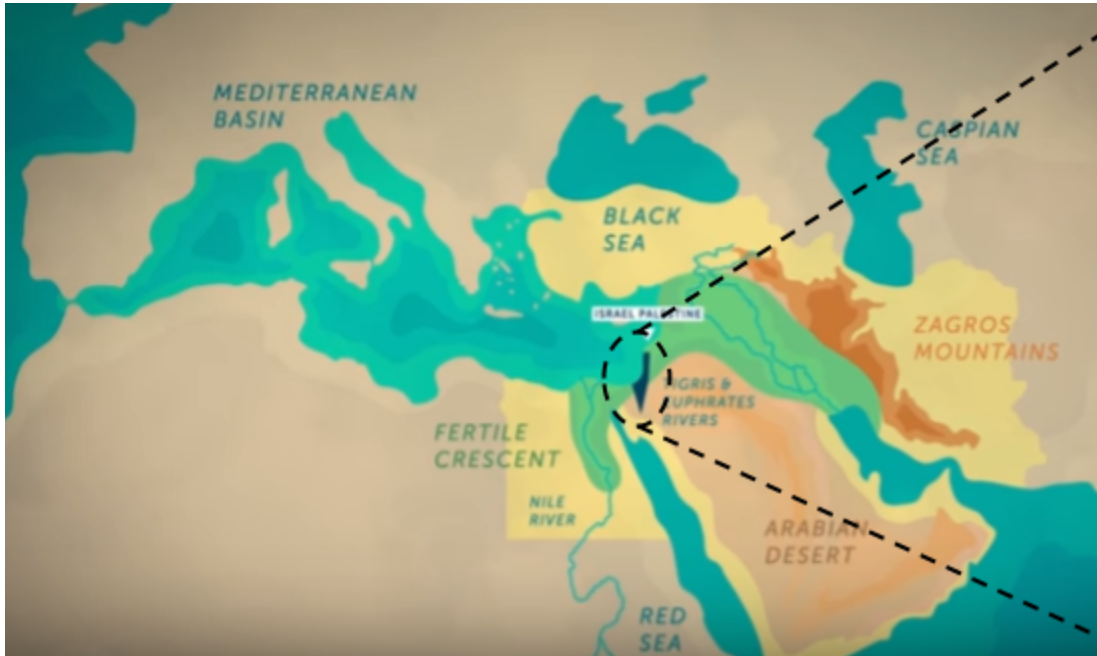
Based on your observations, what can you infer about the conflict between Palestine and Israel?

4. Wonder

Write down questions you have about the conflict between Israel and Palestine after having watched the video.

What is Israel-Palestine? Where is Israel-Palestine?

 Directions: Watch an excerpt of [this video from the Israel-Palestine For Critical Thinkers series \(start-0:42\)](#), examine the maps, and read the text below, then answer the questions that follow.



Map of the Middle East (yellow) and featuring major geographic regions (Fertile Crescent, Zagros Mountains, Arabian Desert) and the location of Israel-Palestine.

Map of Israel-Palestine.

Source: Stills from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2jnvdsF38k>

1. Identify two other names the region known as Israel-Palestine has been called.

2. Historically, why has Israel-Palestine been important?

3. Based on the maps and your knowledge of Global history, what other states (empires, countries, etc.) have controlled Israel-Palestine?

Conflict Between Israel and Palestine

 **Directions:** Watch [this Vox video entitled “The Israel-Palestine conflict: a brief, simple history”](#) (start- 9:05) and read the transcript of the video below then answer the questions on the right.

Growing Nationalism in Israel-Palestine

One of the biggest myths about the Israel-Palestine conflict is that it's been going on for centuries, and that this is all about ancient religious hatreds. In fact, while religion is involved, the conflict is mostly about two groups of people who claim the same land.

(0:16) It really only goes back about a century, to the early 1900s. Around then, the region along the eastern Mediterranean we now call Israel-Palestine had been under Ottoman rule for centuries. It was religiously diverse, including mostly Muslims and Christians but also a small number of Jews, who lived generally in peace.

(0:33) And it was changing in two important ways. First, more people in the region were developing a sense of being not just ethnic Arabs but Palestinians, a distinct national identity. At the same time, not so far away in Europe, more Jews were joining a movement called Zionism, which said that Judaism was not just a religion but a nationality, one that deserved a nation of its own. And after centuries of persecution, many believed a Jewish state was their only way of safety. And they saw their historic homeland in the Middle East as their best hope for establishing it. In the first decades of the 20th century, tens of thousands of European Jews moved there.

World War I and the British Mandate (1:10)

After World War One, the Ottoman Empire collapsed, and the British and French Empires carved up the Middle East, with the British taking control of a region it called the British Mandate for Palestine. At first, the British allowed Jewish immigration. But as more Jews arrived, settling into farming communes, tension between Jews and Arabs grew. Both sides committed acts of violence. By the 1930s, the British began limiting Jewish immigration. In response, Jewish militias formed to fight both the local Arabs and to resist British rule.

Sides of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	
<p>Israel</p> 	<p>Palestine</p> 
<p>Claim ownership of Israel-Palestine because it was the historic home of the Jewish people and was promised to them after World War I by the British.</p>	<p>Claim ownership of Israel-Palestine because they have lived in the region for centuries.</p>

1. How long has the Israel-Palestine conflict been going on?

2. Identify two groups in the Israel-Palestine region whose nationalism increased in the early 1900s.

3. What was the goal of the Zionist movement?

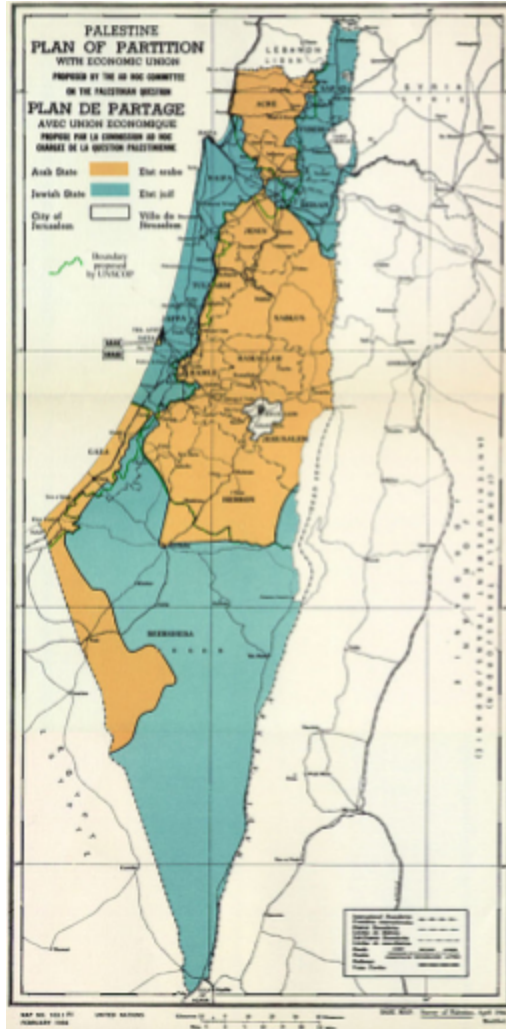
4. What were the effects of Jewish immigration to the British Mandate for Palestine?

The Partition Plan and 1948 Arab-Israeli War (1:44)

Then came the Holocaust, leading many more Jews to flee Europe for British Palestine, and galvanizing much of the world in support of a Jewish state. In 1947, as sectarian violence between Arabs and Jews grew, the United Nations approved a plan to divide British Palestine into two separate states: one for Jews, Israel, and one for Arabs, Palestine. The city of Jerusalem, where Jews, Muslims, and Christians all have have holy sites, was to become a special international zone.

(2:12) The plan was meant to give Jews a state, to establish Palestinian independence, and to end the sectarian violence that the British could no longer control. The Jews accepted the plan and declared independence as Israel. But Arabs throughout the region saw the UN plan as just more European colonialism trying to steal their land.

(2:32) Many of the Arab states, who had just recently won independence themselves, declared war on Israel in an effort to establish a unified Arab Palestine where all of British Palestine had been. The new state of Israel won the war. But in the process, they pushed well past their borders under the UN plan, taking the western half of Jerusalem and much of the land that was to have been part of Palestine. They also expelled huge numbers of Palestinians from their homes, creating a massive refugee population whose descendants today number about 7 million. At the end of the war, Israel controlled all of the territory except for Gaza, which Egypt controlled, and the West Bank, named because it's west of the Jordan River, which Jordan controlled. This was the beginning of the decades-long Arab-Israeli conflict. During this period, many Jews in Arab-majority countries fled or were expelled, arriving in Israel.



Map of the UN Partition Plan for Palestine, adopted 29 Nov 1947. The gold areas represent the proposed Arab State and the blue areas represent the proposed Jewish state. Jerusalem in the center of the Arab section on the West Bank of the Jordan River is an international zone administered by the UN.

Source:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:UN_Palestine_Partition_Versions_1947.jpg

5. How did WWII and the Holocaust impact the Israel-Palestine region?

6. How did the Arabs in Palestine react to the Partition Plan?

Six-Day War (3:28)

Then something happened that transformed the conflict. In 1967, Israel and the neighboring Arab states fought another war. When it ended, Israel had seized the Golan Heights from Syria, the West Bank from Jordan, and both Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt. Israel was now occupying the Palestinian territories, including all of Jerusalem and its holy sites. This left Israel responsible for governing the Palestinians – a people it had fought for decades.

Camp David Accords (3:58)

In 1978, Israel and Egypt signed the US-brokered Camp David Accords and shortly after that, Israel gave Sinai back to Egypt as part of a peace treaty. At the time this was hugely controversial in the Arab world. Egypt President Anwar Sadat was assassinated in part because of outrage against it. But it marked the beginning of the end of the wider Arab-Israeli conflict. Over the next few decades, the other Arab states gradually made peace with Israel, even if they never signed formal peace treaties. But Israel's military was still occupying the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza, and this was when the conflict became an Israeli-Palestinian struggle.

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) (4:39)

The Palestinian Liberation Organization, which had formed in the 1960s to seek a Palestinian state, fought against Israel, including through acts of terrorism. Initially, the PLO claimed all of what had been British Palestine, meaning it wanted to end the state of Israel entirely. Fighting between Israel and the PLO went on for years, even including a 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon to kick the group out of Beirut. The PLO later said it would accept dividing the land between Israel and Palestine, but the conflict continued.



Israel and the territories Israel occupied in the Six day war.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Six_Day_War_Territories.svg

7. What were the effects of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and the Six Day war on:

7a. Israel's borders?

7b. Palestinians living in Israel?

7c. Arab countries bordering Israel-Palestine?

8. What were the effects of the Camp David Accords on relations between Israel and Arab countries in the Middle East?

Israeli Settlements (5:14)

As all of this was happening, something dramatic was changing in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories: Israelis were moving in. These people are called settlers, and they made their homes in the West Bank and Gaza whether Palestinians wanted them or not. Some moved for religious reasons, some because they want to claim the land for Israel, and some just because housing is cheap — and often subsidized by the Israeli government. Some settlements are cities with thousands of people; others are small communities deep into the West Bank. The settlers are followed by soldiers to guard them, and the growing settlements force Palestinians off of their land and divide communities.

(6:01) Short-term, they make the occupation much more painful for Palestinians. Long-term, by dividing up Palestinian land, they make it much more difficult for the Palestinians to ever have an independent state. Today there are several hundred thousand settlers in occupied territory even though the international community considers them illegal.



Map of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with Israeli Settlements, 2007.
Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Palestine_Map_2007_\(Settlements\).gif](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Palestine_Map_2007_(Settlements).gif)

First Intifada (6:19)

By the late 1980s, Palestinian frustration exploded into the Intifada, which is the Arabic word for uprising. It began with mostly protests and boycotts but soon became violent, and Israel responded with heavy force. A couple hundred Israelis and over a thousand Palestinians died in the first Intifada.

Oslo Accords (6:41)

Around the same time, a group of Palestinians in Gaza, who consider the PLO too secular and too compromise-minded, created Hamas, a violent extremist group dedicated to Israel's destruction. By the early 1990s, it was clear that Israelis and Palestinians had to make peace, and leaders from both sides sign the Oslo Accords. This is meant to be the big, first step toward Israel maybe someday withdrawing from the Palestinian territories, and allowing an independent Palestine.

9. Why is the creation of Israeli settlements in Israeli-occupied Palestine important to the state of the conflict?

10. What was the First Intifada? Why did it occur?

(7:13) The Oslo Accords establish the Palestinian Authority, allowing Palestinians a little bit of freedom to govern themselves in certain areas. Hard-liners on both sides opposed the Oslo accords. Members of Hamas launch suicide bombings to try to sabotage the process. The Israeli right protested peace talks, with ralliers calling Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin a traitor and a Nazi. Not long after Rabin signs the second round of Oslo Accords, a far-right Israeli shoots him to death in Tel Aviv. This violence showed how the extremists on both sides can use violence to derail peace, and keep a permanent conflict going as they seek the other side's total destruction. That's a dynamic that's been around ever since. Negotiations meant to hammer out the final details on peace drag on for years, and a big Camp David Summit in 2000 comes up empty.

Second Intifada (8:06)

Palestinians come to believe that peace isn't coming, and rise up in a Second Intifada, this one much more violent than the first. By the time it wound down a few years later, about 1,000 Israelis and 3,200 Palestinians had died. The Second Intifada really changes the conflict. Israelis become much more skeptical that Palestinians will ever accept peace, or that it's even worth trying. Israeli politics shift to the right, and the country builds walls and checkpoints to control Palestinians' movements.



An Israeli soldier stands guard during an operational activity in Nablus during the Second Intifada.
Source: www.foxnews.com/photos/2002/09/11/020911_01_01.html

(8:36) They're not really trying to solve the conflict anymore, just manage it. The Palestinians are left feeling like negotiating didn't work and violence didn't work, that they're stuck under an ever-growing occupation with no future as a people. That year, Israel withdraws from Gaza. Hamas gains power but splits from the Palestinian Authority in a short civil war, dividing Gaza from the West Bank. Israel puts Gaza under a suffocating blockade, and unemployment rises to 40%.

11. How did extreme factions of Israelis and Palestinians react to the Oslo Accords?

12. What were the effects of the Second Intifada?

13. Describe the current state of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

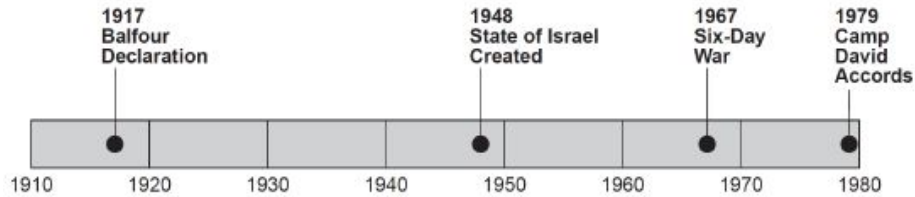


Regents Multiple Choice Check for Understanding

1. Many conflicts in the Middle East during the post-World War II period have directly resulted from

- (1) the dissolution of the Arab League
- (2) border clashes between Iran and China
- (3) disputes related to Palestine
- (4) the partition of Egypt

2. Base your answer to this question on the time line below and on your knowledge of social studies.



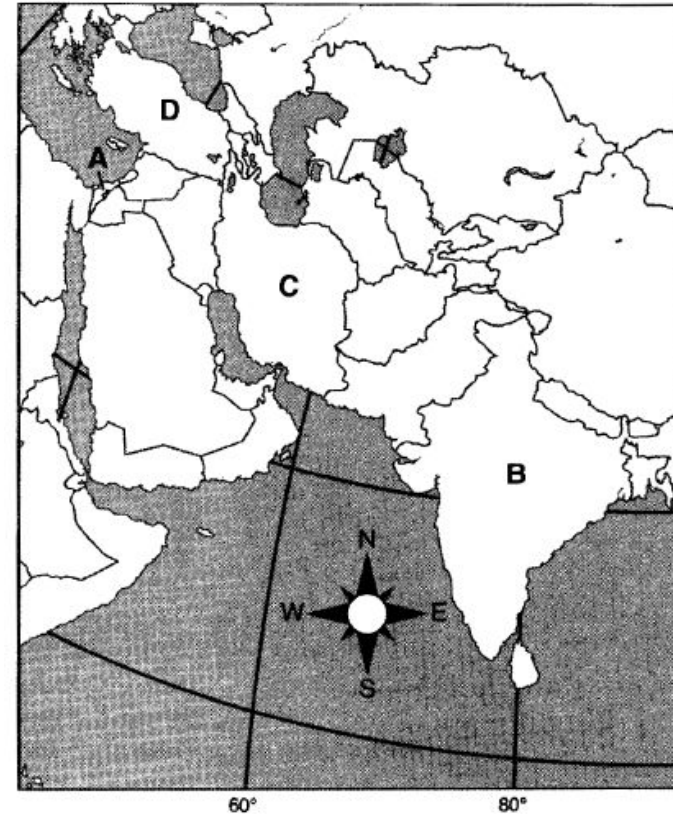
Which region is directly associated with the events shown on this time line?

- (1) Latin America
- (2) Middle East
- (3) Central Africa
- (4) Southeast Asia

3. A major source of the dispute between the Israelis and the Palestinians is that each side

- (1) wants to control oil resources in the area
- (2) has historic ties to the same land
- (3) believes in different interpretations of the same religion
- (4) has close military alliances with neighboring countries

Base your answer to question on the map below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: Mountain High Maps

4. Which letter represents the location of a country created in part as a result of the Zionist movement?

- (1) A
- (2) B
- (3) C
- (4) D

