

THE LOCKE SOCIETY

LIFE, LIBERTY & EDUCATION



Unit

Topic

Global/Israel/Palestine

Israel-Palestine Conflict (*Note: This lesson must be modified by the teacher for time preference.)

Lesson Plan

Aim/Compelling Question

What is the solution to the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict?

Rationale

Anti-Israel sentiment is being promoted by leading educational resources that are pushing a pro-Palestine agenda through their lesson plans. Even the National Council for the Social Studies has recently [hosted an outspoken anti-Israel advocate](#) at their annual conference. With the Israel-Palestine conflict being part of many standard curriculums, teachers will find it more and more difficult to collect reliable resources that do not push such an agenda. Contemporary history must be approached carefully, and one of the best ways to teach it objectively is to allow students to explore various resources on the topic and navigate it themselves. In this lesson, students will define the conflict between Israel and Palestine going as far back in history as possible, identifying the beginning of the conflict and how it has progressed over time along with how it has tried to be resolved. Through asking questions of their own, identifying and studying relevant documents, and corroborating sources, students will be able to understand the controversy that surrounds the Israel-Palestine conflict in terms of how it is represented by media outlets and different educational institutions, while determining and evaluating possible solutions to the conflict.

Student Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to define the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict by researching its origins using a timeline of events and identifying the most significant events on the timeline.
2. Students will be able to collaborate to find a solution to the conflict by engaging in thorough and agreed upon research and discussing their findings.
3. Students will critique possible solutions and formulate an independent opinion after listening to all others.

Civics Connection

- How have people in power affected political, social, and economic developments regarding the freedom and protection of their people?

Vocabulary

Israel (map)	Judaism	provoked/unprovoked	Holocaust
Jerusalem	Islam	Hamas	Middle East (map)
Gaza Strip	terrorism	Zionism	
Palestine	aggression	Prosecution	



Materials and Resources

Articles:

“Gaza violence intensifies as Jerusalem clashes resume.” *NPR*, 21 Apr. 2022, <https://www.npr.org/2022/04/21/1093974782/israel-gaza-militants-trade-fire-as-mideast-tensions-mount>. *The Associated Press*, Accessed 31 Dec. 2022.

Sigan, Lilac. “Why media selectively avoids certain Israeli-Palestinian conflict news – opinion.” *The Jerusalem Post*, 17 Mar. 2022, <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-701612>. Accessed 31 Dec. 2022.

Kinglsey, Patrick. “After Years of Quiet, Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Exploded. Why Now?” *The New York Times*, 2 Nov. 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/15/world/middleeast/israel-palestinian-gaza-war.html>. Accessed 5 Jan. 2023.

Timeline Sources:

“History of Israel – Timeline.” *Mission of Israel to the UN in Geneva*, <https://embassies.gov.il/UnGeneva/Pages/default.aspx>. Accessed Dec. 30 2022.

“Timeline of Jewish History: Modern Israel & the Diaspora (2010 – Present).” *Jewish Virtual Library: A Project of AICE*, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/timeline-of-modern-israel-2010-present>. Accessed Dec. 30 2022.

“Israel Profile – Timeline.” *BBC*, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29123668>. Accessed Dec. 30 2022.

Additional Texts:

1. [Mandate For Palestine](#)
2. [The Arab-Israeli War of 1948](#)
3. [The 1967 Arab-Israeli War](#)
4. [The Oslo Accords and the Arab-Israeli Peace Process](#)

*Note to teacher: Use the timeline to identify other documents you may wish to use for the lesson.

Maps:

<https://israeled.org/resources/maps/>

Procedure

Do Now: Students will preview the questions, read the article, “[Gaza violence intensifies as Jerusalem clashes resume](#)” (*NPR*), and respond to the questions.

Mini-Lesson: Students will read two conflicting news reports of the circumstances in Israel regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through a detailed reading of both texts including citing evidence, arguments, bias, and credibility, students will identify the controversy using the texts.

Procedure for Groups:

Activity 1: Students will highlight what their group views as the key events on the timeline. Determine which events will help answer the compelling question. (Each group must agree on the



essential events.) * *The teacher may choose to point out certain events to review instead of students identifying on their own.*

Activity 2: Students will select which events they need to read more about to help answer the compelling question. Read and analyze each document provided by the teacher or found through student research. **See “additional texts” listed under resources. The teacher should provide copies of the texts for students to read if not having students find documents on their own.*

Activity 3: Students will answer each supporting question based on their research. **See “supporting questions” in the lesson plan.*

Activity 4: Students will draft what their group thinks the *most likely* solution to the conflict will be and why. (Students do not need to agree with the expected solution.)

Share: Groups will share both responses to activity 3 and 4. Each group will discuss and select the *most-likely* solution after all have been presented. (Groups do not need to agree with the expected solution. For example, a group may think that the conflict will lead to war, but that does not necessarily mean that they agree that war should be the solution.)

Close: Each student will independently reflect on the lesson by briefly explaining what they believe the solution should be for the conflict and why. This response should reflect what students truly think should happen in order to resolve the conflict.

Modifications

**This lesson in its original form may take a few days to complete. To shorten the length of the lesson, the teacher may need to modify portions.*

- The teacher may shorten the timeline by eliminating events.
- The teacher may review key events on the timeline with students using a visual presentation to help identify the time period.
- The teacher may assign selected texts/events for each group OR extend the lesson by having students find the texts based on the events they deem important from the timeline.
- The teacher may divide texts/parts of the timeline between groups or within groups to lessen the amount of time needed for the lesson.
- The teacher may provide pre-selected solutions that groups will be able to choose from to complete Activity 4.
- The teacher may provide an outline for students to complete during the “share” activity which can be referenced for discussion and for the closure.
- The teacher may use other additional texts for students to read to complete the lesson.

Supporting Questions

- What is the conflict between Israel and Palestine?
- When did the conflict between Israel and Palestine begin?
- What is the history of Jews in Israel?
- What is the history of Arabs in Israel?
- How has this conflict tried to be resolved in the past?
- How could this conflict end?

Extension

This lesson may be extended with a Socratic Seminar in which students will discuss their points of view on how the Israel-Palestinian conflict should end. Students should prepare to discuss their plans, the benefits, the drawbacks, the limitations, consequences, etc.



Notes

**Use discretion for activities according to what is appropriate for your class.*



Lesson: Article #1

“Why media selectively avoids certain Israeli-Palestinian conflict news – opinion” (The Jerusalem Post)

1. What is the author’s claim? Explain if the research he uses to support it is credible or not.
2. In the section ‘No terror attacks or drones’ the author uses sarcasm. Turn his sarcastic statements into true statements.
3. How does the author question the credibility of the *New York Times*’ data?
4. Summarize the story of the teacher in the synagogue. Describe how you would rate the *New York Times*’ credibility covering this story.
5. Why does the author say that his tracking of the *New York Times*’ coverage of the Israel-Palestine Conflict is “frightening?”



Lesson: Article #2

[“After Years of Quiet, Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Exploded. Why Now?”](#)
[\(New York Times\)](#)

1. How does the author blame Israel for resuming the war between Israel and Palestine?
2. Why does the author say Israel created this crisis?
3. What are some claims you would fact check in this article? Explain why.
4. Does this article prove Sigan’s claim in the article from *The Jerusalem Post*? Explain why or why not.
5. Create at least two questions you have after reading this article.



ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT TIMELINE

17th-6th Century BCE (Biblical Times)

13th-12th C BC: Israelites settle in the Land of Israel

1000 BC: Jerusalem becomes the capital

586 BC: Judah conquered by Babylonia; Jerusalem and First Temple destroyed; most Jews exiled

The Second Temple Period

538 – 142 BC: Persian and Hellenistic Periods

538-515 BC: Many Jews return from Babylonia; temple rebuilt

332 BC: Land conquered by Alexander the Great; Hellenistic Rule

166-160 BC: Maccabean (Hasmonean) revolt against restrictions on practice of Judaism and desecration of the Temple

63 BC: Jerusalem is captured by Roman general, Pompey

Roman Rule

63 BCE - 313 CE

66: Jewish revolt against the Romans

70: Destruction of Jerusalem and Second Temple

Foreign Domination

313-636: *Byzantine Rule*

614: Persian invasion

636-1099: *Arab Rule*

691: On site of First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, Dome of the Rock built by Caliph Abd-el-Malik

1099-1291: *Crusader Domination (Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem)*

1291-1516: *Mamluk Rule*

1517-1917: *Ottoman Rule*

1564: Code of Jewish law (*Shulhan Arukh*) published.

1860: First neighborhood built outside walls of Jerusalem's Old City

1882-1903: First large-scale immigration mainly from Russia

1904-14: Second immigration mainly from Russia, Poland

1909: first modern all Jewish city, Tel Aviv founded

1917: 400 years of Ottoman rule ended by British conquest; British Foreign Minister Balfour pledges support for establishment of a "Jewish national home in Palestine"

1918-1948: *British Rule*

1919-1923: Third immigration mainly from Russia

1922: Britain granted Mandate for Palestine (Land of Israel) by League of Nations

1924-1932: Fourth immigration mainly from Poland

1929: Hebron Jews massacred by Arab terrorists

1933-1939: Fifth immigration mainly from Germany

1936-1939: Anti-Jewish riots instigated by Arab terrorists

1947: UN proposes the establishment of Arab and Jewish states in the Land.



State of Israel

1948: End of British Mandate (May 14); State of Israel is proclaimed May 14 → Israel is invaded by five Arab states May 15 → Israeli defense forces established → War of Independence May 1948-July 1949

1949: Armistice agreements signed with Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon. → Jerusalem is divided under Israeli and Jordanian rule. First Knesset (parliament) elected. Israel admitted to United Nations as 59th member

1960s-1980s

1967: Six-Day War; Jerusalem reunited

1968-70: Egypt's War of Attrition against Israel

1973: Yom Kippur War

1975: Israel becomes an associate member of the European Common Market

1978: Camp David Accords include framework for comprehensive peace in the Middle East and proposal for Palestinian self-government.

1979: Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty signed

1982: Israel's three-stage withdrawal from Sinai Peninsula completed.

Operation Peace for Galilee removes Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) terrorists from Lebanon.

1985: Free Trade Agreement signed with United States.

1987: Widespread violence (Intifada) starts in Israeli-administered areas.

1989: Four-point peace initiative proposed by Israel.

1990s

1991: Israel attacked by Iraqi Scud missiles during Gulf war.

1993: Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements for the Palestinians signed by Israel and PLO, as representative of the Palestinian people (Oslo Accords).

1994: Implementation of Palestinian self-government in Gaza Strip and Jericho area.

Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty signed.

1995: Broadened Palestinian self-government implemented in West Bank and Gaza Strip; Palestinian Council elected.

1996: Fundamentalist Arab terrorism against Israel escalates.

Operation Grapes of Wrath, retaliation for Hizbullah terrorists' attacks on northern Israel.

Binyamin Netanyahu elected prime minister.

1998: Israel celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Israel and the PLO sign the Wye River Memorandum to facilitate implementation of the Interim Agreement.

1999: Ehud Barak (left-wing One Israel party) elected prime minister; forms coalition government.

Israel and the PLO sign the Sharm-el-Sheikh Memorandum.

2000s

2000: Israel withdraws from the Security Zone in southern Lebanon.

Israel admitted to UN Western European and Others Group.

Renewed violence (Second Intifada)

2002: Israel launches Operation Defensive Shield in response to massive Palestinian terrorist attacks.

Israel begins building the anti-terrorist fence to stop West Bank terrorists from killing Israeli citizens.

2005: Israel carries out the Disengagement Plan, ending Israel's presence in the Gaza Strip

2006: Israel carried out military operations against Palestinian terrorists in Gaza after kidnapping of Israeli soldier. The Second War in Lebanon, during which Israel carried out military operations against Hezbollah terrorism from southern Lebanon, following missile attacks and kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers.



2007: Israel declares Gaza "hostile territory" following Hamas' violent takeover of Gaza Strip.
2008: Israel launches its Gaza Operation (Operation Cast Lead)
2009: Benjamin Netanyahu is elected Prime Minister in national elections held in February 2009, and forms a broad-based coalition government

2010s

2010: Israel joins the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
2010: The Popular Resistance Committees (PRC), a Palestinian militant group in the Gaza Strip with close ties to Hamas, tries to carry out an attack on Israel by placing bombs in barrels and sending them into the Mediterranean Sea from the Gaza coast.
2010: Direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, hosted by the U.S., resume.
2011: the Israeli developed Iron Dome anti-missile system successfully shoots down its first two rockets fired by Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip. The rockets, aimed towards Israeli communities in the south, were immediately destroyed on impact by Iron Dome missiles which were released mere seconds after the initial launches. Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak called the incident a first in military history.
2011: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the opening plenary of the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly directly following a plea from Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas for the United Nations to recognize the State of Palestine. Netanyahu pledges that he will continue to work towards peace and two-state solution with the Palestinians but that unilateral actions such as Abbas' request from the UN are only detrimental to the peace process.
2012: A 2,700-year-old clay shard with an ancient Hebrew inscription mentioning the city of Bethlehem was found in an archaeological dig in Jerusalem, according to the Israel Antiquities Authority. The shard, measuring less than one inch across, was found by crews sifting through debris removed from the excavation site known as the City of David, just outside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. Head archaeologist Eli Shukron said the inscriptions on the shard are significant because they are the first archaeological evidence that Bethlehem existed as a city during the period generally referred to by biblical archaeologists as the First Temple era.
2014: In response to a surge in rocket fire from the Gaza Strip, the IDF announces Operation Protective Edge to eliminate rocket fire from Gaza.
2017: Work begins on the first new Jewish settlement in the West Bank for 25 years.
2017: UNESCO votes to declare the Old City of Hebron a Palestinian World Heritage site, a move that Israel complains ignores the city's Jewish heritage.
2017: US President Donald Trump recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, upsetting the Arab world and some Western allies.
2018: UN and Egypt attempt to broker a long-term ceasefire between Israel and Hamas amid an upsurge in violence on the Gaza border from March.

2020s

2021: Unrest over forced evictions of Palestinians in east Jerusalem leads to conflict with Hamas and communal violence in Israeli cities.
2021: Naftali Bennett of the Jewish nationalist Yamina party forms a broad coalition to oust Benjamin Netanyahu.
2021: Naftali Bennett elected prime minister (June 13, 2021 – June 30, 2022)
2022: Yair Lapid elected prime minister (July 1, 2022 – December 28, 2022)
2022: Benjamin Netanyahu elected prime minister (December 29, 2022 – present)
October 7, 2023: Hamas terrorists launch a deadly attack, slaughtering more than 1,300 Israelis including babies, and kidnapping more than 150 hostages. Hamas terrorists use hostages as "human shields." Israel launches ground invasion to limit casualties of civilians.

Sources: <https://embassies.gov.il/UnGeneva/AboutIsrael/history/Pages/History-Israel-Timeline.aspx>
<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/timeline-of-modern-israel-2010-present>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29123668>

