

## Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

In the years following WWII, the Jewish people won what for so long had eluded them: their own state. The gaining of a homeland along the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, however, came at a heavy price. A Jewish state was unwelcome in this mostly Arab region, and the resulting hostility led to a series of wars. Perhaps no Arab people, however, have been more opposed to a Jewish state than the Palestinians, who claim that much of the Jewish land belongs to them. These two groups have waged a bloody battle that goes on today.

### Part One

In this part, your job will be to identify some of the events in the violent history of the Arab – Israeli conflict that has been waged since the inception of the Jewish state in 1948. For each of the events, you'll need to list the following:

- **Event name**
- **Date** – When did the event take place?
- **Synopsis** – Briefly describe what the event was. (brief!)
- **Participants** – Who was involved?
- **Impact** – How did the event affect Arab-Israeli relations? How did the situation change as a result of the event?
- **Alternative** – For each event, you **MUST** come up with a way in which you would have handled the situation and you **MUST** defend your reasoning (why would your way work best at resolving conflict?)

#### Events:

1. UN votes for a partition of Palestine into two states (one Palestinian; one Jewish).
2. 1948 – 1949 invasion of Israel.
3. 1956 Suez Crisis
4. The Six-Day War
5. The Camp David Accords
6. The Palestinian Intifada
7. The Oslo Peace Accords

In addition, you will identify the following leaders:

- Anwar Sadat
- Golda Meir
- Yasir Arafat
- You **MUST** explain which side they led, when they led, and what their major goals were while in power.

## Part Two

**1<sup>st</sup> Assignment:** You are to go to the following websites to research both sides of the conflict in order to understand perspectives.

### **The Road from Oslo (see "Parallel Realities")**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/oslo/>

### **BBC News: In Depth: Israel and the Palestinians (see "Voices from the Conflict")**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in\\_depth/middle\\_east/2001/israel\\_and\\_the\\_palestinians/](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/middle_east/2001/israel_and_the_palestinians/)

**What are the solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?**

<http://israelipalestinian.procon.org/?gclid=CKrP-7L1hpoCFQghnAoduQ7yQQ>

### **Washington Post: War and Peace in the Middle East (see "Life in Wartime" photo essay)**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/world/issues/mideastpeace/>

### **Online NewsHour: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (see "Newsmakers: Two Views of the Conflict" and "Coping with Conflict")**

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle\\_east/conflict/](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/conflict/)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Assignment:** After you have completed your research, you need to write a personal account, such as a letter or journal entry, from the point of view of an Israeli or Palestinian student. The accounts can be written in the present day or in the past, but they must reflect a major event in the history of the conflict and they should include several details based on research. You should attempt to convey how it must feel to live in the midst of such a conflict.

You will be switching letters with someone in class and critiquing each other's work. The rubric you will use appears below.

WHO/WHEN	RELIABILITY	UNDERSTANDING	DETAILS	EMOTION
<b>3</b> clearly states when and by whom	<b>3</b> account is believable	<b>5</b> demonstrates a clear understanding of the conflict based on research	<b>5</b> Thoughtful account with several details	<b>4</b> Fully and accurately reflects how one might feel
<b>2</b> clearly states when <b>or</b> by whom (but not both)	<b>2</b> account is somewhat believable (begin to question if it could have happened)	<b>3</b> demonstrates and adequate understanding of the conflict	<b>3</b> Thoughtful account with some details	<b>3</b> Adequately reflects how one might feel
<b>1</b> unclear when and by whom	<b>1</b> account is unbelievable	<b>1</b> understanding of the conflict is unclear	<b>1</b> Incomplete account that did not include relevant details	<b>1</b> does not express any emotion or sense of personal involvement