

What Is Zionism? - Israeli & Zionist History

I feel comfortable learning about history	😊	😐	😞
I know something about Israel	A lot	A little	Nothing
I have heard the word "Zionism" before	Yes	Maybe	No

If you need a break during this lesson, you can:

- Raise your hand
- Request a break in the calm room
- Take deep breaths

Key Vocabulary

Word	What It Means	Visual Clue
Zionism	The movement for Jewish people to return to their homeland	
Theodor Herzl	Important leader of the Zionist movement	
Balfour Declaration	1917 letter supporting a Jewish homeland in Palestine	
National Home	A place where a group of people can live and govern themselves	

Word Association Activity

When I hear the word "Zionism," I think of:

Word 1: _____	Word 2: _____
Word 3: _____	Word 4: _____

Video Notes: What Is Zionism?

While watching the video, I will look for:

Question	My Answer
Who coined the term "Zionism"?	
What year was it coined?	
What is the main goal of Zionism?	

Famous Quotes About Zionism

Read these quotes and circle the one that interests you most:

Albert Einstein: "Zionism springs from an even deeper motive than Jewish suffering. It is rooted in a Jewish spiritual tradition..."

Golda Meir: "There is no Zionism except the rescue of Jews."

A.B. Yehoshua: "A Zionist is a person who accepts the principle that the State of Israel doesn't belong solely to its citizens, but to the entire Jewish people."

The quote I found most interesting was by: _____

Because: _____

Theodor Herzl - Quick Facts

Fill in what you learn about Herzl:

Fact	Information
Why is he important?	
What did he do?	
One interesting thing about him:	

Different Types of Zionism

My group is learning about: _____ Zionism

What We Need to Find Out	Our Answer
What are the main beliefs?	
How is it different from other types?	
One interesting fact:	

In 2-3 sentences, we will explain our type of Zionism to the class:

The Balfour Declaration (1917)

This was a very short letter - only 67 words - that changed history!

Key Facts

Question	Answer
What date was it written?	
Who wrote it?	
What did it promise?	

Think About It

Question	My Thoughts
How could such a short letter change history?	
What's the difference between a "national home" and a "state"?	

Create a Tweet About the Balfour Declaration

If Twitter existed in 1917, what would Lord Balfour tweet? (Remember: tweets are short!)

@LordBalfour

#BritishGovernment #JewishHome #Palestine

Reflection

What I Learned Today

One new thing I learned about Zionism:

One new thing I learned about Theodor Herzl:

One new thing I learned about the Balfour Declaration:

Questions I Still Have

1. _____

2. _____

How I Feel Now

I understand what Zionism means	Yes	Somewhat	Not yet
I understand why the Balfour Declaration was important	Yes	Somewhat	Not yet
I want to learn more about Israeli history	Yes	Maybe	No

The British Mandate and Israel's Founding

I feel comfortable learning about this history	😊	😐	😞
I know about Israel's history	A lot	A little	Not much

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Key Words We Will Learn

Word	What It Means	Emoji Clue
Mandate	When one country manages another country's territory	What is a Mandate? - Established by Article 22 of the League of Nations Covenant - June 28, 1919 - Put into force by the League of Nations - Legal status for territories - Transferred power from 1 country to another 
Partition	Dividing land between different groups	
League of Nations	An international organization before the United Nations	
White Paper	Official government document with rules	 מדינת ישראל The State of Israel מדינת ישראל The State of Israel

Timeline of Important Events

Year	What Happened	Check When Understood
1922	Britain gets control of Palestine	☐
1930-1939	White Papers limit Jewish immigration	☐
November 29, 1947	UN Partition Plan proposed	☐
May 14, 1948	State of Israel proclaimed	☐

Map Investigation

Look at the maps of the British Mandate and UN Partition Plan. What do you notice?

Question	My Observations
How did the borders change?	
Who decided these borders?	
What looks different?	

David Ben Gurion Research

Learn about Israel's first Prime Minister:

Question	What I Found
Where was he born?	
What was his most important job?	
Why is he important?	

Reflection

Draw or write one new thing you learned about Israel's founding:

How I Feel Now

I understand Israel's early history better	Yes	Somewhat	Not yet
I have more questions	Many	Some	None

My remaining questions:

Israel's Independence War (1948)

I feel comfortable learning about wars	😊	😐	😞
I like learning about real people's stories	Yes	Sometimes	No
I understand that wars affect many people	Yes	Learning	Not sure

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- Take deep breaths
- Ask to speak with the teacher privately

Key Facts to Remember

Important Date	What Happened	Visual Clue
May 14, 1948	Israel declared independence in Tel Aviv	
May 15, 1948	Arab armies attacked Israel	
1948-1949	Independence War lasted about 1 year	

Video Notes

While watching the video, I will look for:

Question	My Answer
How many armies/countries attacked Israel?	
What happened to Palestinians during the war?	
What do Palestinians call this war?	

Understanding Both Sides

Important: This war affected both Jewish and Arab people. There were losses on both sides.

Jewish Israelis	Palestinian Arabs
• Celebrated independence • Fought to defend new country • Some were Holocaust survivors	• Many left their homes • Some were told to leave by Arab leaders • Some were forced to leave

Personal Stories Activity

I will read about one Israeli person who lived through the Independence War.

My Israeli Person: _____

Question	Answer
Where were they from originally?	
Were they born in Israel or outside?	
If from outside Israel, where did they come from?	
What did they do during the war?	
How old were they during the war?	
What do they think of Israel now?	

What I Found Interesting

Write or draw something interesting about this person's story:

Group Sharing

When other students share their stories, I will listen for:

Student Name	Their Israeli Person	One Interesting Fact

Reflection

What I Learned Today

Circle what you learned:

☒ When Israel became independent	☒ How the war started
☒ Personal stories from the war	☒ That both sides were affected

What Was Surprising?

What was surprising to learn about the Independence War?

Questions I Still Have

What questions do you still have about this time in history?

How I Feel Now

I understand the Independence War better now	Yes	Somewhat	Not yet
I understand why this was important for Jewish people	Yes	Somewhat	Not yet
I understand that wars affect many people	Yes	Somewhat	Not yet

Important Reminders

- 🤝 Wars are complex and affect many people
- 📖 Learning about history helps us understand the world
- 👥 Different people have different experiences of the same events
- 🧠 It's okay to have questions about difficult topics

Jewish Immigration to Israel (Aliyah)

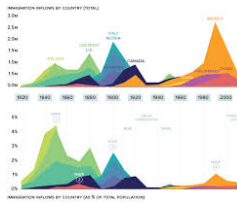
Getting Started: My Family's Journey

I know where my family came from	Yes	Some places	No
I want to share about my family's journey	Yes	Maybe	No

My family came from: _____

How they got to where we live now: _____

Key Words We Will Learn

Word	What It Means	Visual Clue
Aliyah	Jewish immigration to Israel (means "going up")	
Immigration Wave	A large group of people moving at the same time	
Refugee	Someone who had to leave their home because it wasn't safe	
Ma'abarot	Temporary camps where new immigrants lived when they first arrived	
Operation	A special mission to help Jews move to Israel	

Immigration Waves Research

Work with your group to research one wave of Jewish immigration to Israel.

My Group's Assignment

☐ Group 1: Pre-State Aliyah (1882-1939)	☐ Group 2: "Illegal" Immigration (1934-1948)
☐ Group 3: Operation Magic Carpet (Yemen)	☐ Group 4: Operation Ezra & Nehemia (Iraq)
☐ Group 5: Operations Moses & Solomon (Ethiopia)	☐ Group 6: Soviet Jewry Immigration

Question	Our Answer
How many Jews came to Israel during this time?	
Where did they come from?	
What happened to them before they came to Israel?	
How did they travel to Israel?	
What did they bring with them?	
Where did they live when they first arrived?	
What kind of homes were they living in?	
Where did they go after that?	

Creating Our News Article/Blog

Choose ONE format for your group's presentation:

☐ News article	☐ Blog post
☐ First-person story	☐ Timeline with pictures

Planning Our Story

Story Element	Our Plan
Main character (if first-person story)	
Setting (time and place)	
Main challenge they faced	
How they overcame it	
Pictures we want to include	

Group Work Plan

Group Member	Responsibility	Done ✓
		☐
		☐
		☐
		☐

Listening to Other Groups

As each group presents, write down one interesting fact from each presentation:

Group Topic	One Interesting Fact
Pre-State Aliyah	
"Illegal" Immigration	
Operation Magic Carpet	
Operation Ezra & Nehemia	
Operations Moses & Solomon	
Soviet Jewry Immigration	

Understanding the Journey

List 3 challenges that Jewish immigrants faced:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How Israel Helped

List 2 ways Israel helped Jews immigrate:

1. _____
2. _____

Reflection

What I Learned Today

Draw or write about one immigration story that stood out to you:

Connecting to Today

How is Jewish immigration to Israel similar to or different from immigration to other countries today?

How I Feel Now

I understand Jewish immigration to Israel better now	Yes	Somewhat	Not yet
I can see why people would want to move to Israel	Yes	Maybe	No
I still have questions	Many	Some	None

Questions I still have:

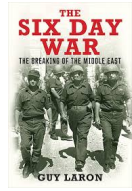
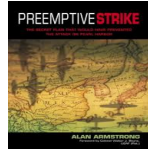
The 1967 Six-Day War

I feel comfortable learning about wars	😊	😐	😞
I like learning about maps and geography	Yes	Sometimes	No
I am ready to participate in a debate	Yes	Maybe	No

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Key Words We Will Learn

Word	What It Means	Visual Clue
Six-Day War	A war in 1967 that lasted exactly 6 days	
Preemptive Strike	Attacking first before the enemy attacks you	
Arab Neighbors	Countries around Israel (Egypt, Jordan, Syria)	
Territory	Land that belongs to a country	
Old City	The historic center of Jerusalem	

Before the War: June 4, 1967

Let's look at what Israel looked like BEFORE the Six-Day War:

What I Notice About the Map	My Observations
Size of Israel	
Countries around Israel	
Who controlled Jerusalem?	

Video Notes

While watching the videos about the Six-Day War, I will look for:

Question	My Answer
What was surprising about the outcome?	
Who was expected to win?	
What were people expecting after the war?	
How many countries fought against Israel?	

Debate Preparation

Debate Question: Should Israel have attacked first?

My group is arguing: FOR / AGAINST (circle one) Israel attacking first

Our Arguments

Argument #	Our Point	Evidence/Reason
1		
2		
3		

Debate Roles

Role	Student Name	Ready ✓
Introduction		☐
Argument 1		☐
Argument 2		☐
Argument 3		☐
Rebuttal		☐
Conclusion		☐

After the War: Changes

Let's compare what happened AFTER the Six-Day War:

Before the War	After the War
Israel was smaller	
Jordan controlled East Jerusalem	
Egypt controlled Gaza Strip	
Syria controlled Golan Heights	

Personal Stories

We learned about Israeli paratroopers who captured the Old City. What stood out to me:

Write or draw something that stood out to you from the personal stories:

Reflection

What I Learned Today

The Six-Day War was important because:	
One surprising thing I learned:	
The debate helped me understand:	

How I Feel Now

I understand why the Six-Day War was important	Yes	Somewhat	Not yet
I can see different perspectives on the war	Yes	Somewhat	Not yet
I still have questions	Many	Some	None

Questions I still have:

Debate Self-Assessment

I listened respectfully to the other side	Yes	Mostly	Need to improve
I contributed to my team's preparation	Yes	Somewhat	A little
I learned from hearing different viewpoints	Yes	Somewhat	Not really

The 1973 Yom Kippur War: Understanding Israeli History

I understand what a war is	Yes	Somewhat	No
I feel comfortable learning about this topic	😊	😊	😞

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Key Words We Will Learn

Word	What It Means	Visual Clue
Yom Kippur	The holiest day in Judaism	
Prime Minister	Leader of the government	
War	Conflict between countries	
Border	Line between two countries	

Golda Meir: Israel's First Female Prime Minister

Research Activity: Work with a partner to find out about Golda Meir

Question	Our Answer
Where did she come from before Israel?	
When was she Prime Minister?	
One interesting fact about her	

Google Maps Geography Challenge

Let's explore Israel's geography!

Location	Distance	What I Learned
Tel Aviv to Jerusalem		
Jerusalem to Eilat		
Metula to Beirut		
Tzfah to Damascus		

Border Exploration

Question	My Answer
What countries border Eilat?	
Where is the Western Wall located?	

Reflection

What surprised you most about Israel's geography?

How I Feel Now

I understand the Yom Kippur War better	Yes	Somewhat	No
I learned something new about Israel	Yes	Somewhat	No

Questions I still have:

The Oslo Accords: A Path to Peace?

I understand peace negotiations	Yes	Somewhat	Not yet
I feel comfortable discussing conflicts	😊	😐	😞

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Key Words We Will Learn

Word	What It Means	Visual Clue
Oslo Accords	Peace agreement between Israel and Palestinians	
Intifada	Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation	
Peace Treaty	Official agreement to stop fighting	

Historical Context Timeline

Year	Event	What Happened
1973	Yom Kippur War	
1978	Camp David Accords	
1993	Oslo Accords	

Yitzhak Rabin: A Closer Look

Question	My Answer
Who was Yitzhak Rabin?	
What was his role in the Oslo Accords?	
What surprised me about his life	

Perspectives Activity

Choose ONE perspective to explore:

☐ Israeli supporter of Oslo Accords	☐ Palestinian supporter of Oslo Accords
☐ Israeli opponent of Oslo Accords	☐ Palestinian opponent of Oslo Accords

What I learned from this perspective:

Reflection

What I Learned About Peace

Draw or write one thing you learned about trying to make peace:

How I Feel Now

I understand the Oslo Accords better	Yes	Somewhat	Not yet
I see why peace is complicated	Yes	Maybe	No

Questions I still have:
