

Class: Geography

Lesson #11: Date: April 6

Learning Target: Describe the Causes of the
Israeli-Palestine Conflict

Warm Up-Read the two paragraphs

Palestine is the name given by Arabs to an area in the Middle East. Palestine was absorbed into the Ottoman Empire in 1517 and remained under the rule of the Turks until World War One. Towards the end of this war, the Turks were defeated by British forces. The British had made a number of conflicting commitments during the war: They had promised Arabs independence in return for taking up arms against their Turkish Ottoman rulers (McMahon-Hussein Agreement of October 1915). In November of 1917, in what became known as the Balfour Declaration, Britain announced its support for a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine (of course, the land was already populated and promised to native Arabs). After the war, the British decided to maintain control of Palestine.

After WWII, in which 6 million Jews were killed in Europe (during the Holocaust in which Adolf Hitler attempted to wipe out the Jews), many nations, including the United States, embraced the idea of creating a Jewish state in British-ruled Palestine. There was a slight problem. Some other people were already living there. In 1947, the United Nations voted to divide the area into an Arab state and a Jewish state. The Jews accepted the partition plan; but the Arabs, who outnumbered Jews in much of Palestine, rejected it. When the British left and Israel declared independence in 1948, five Arab states attacked. Israel defeated the Arab forces and took all of the Arab territory designated by the UN. 750,000 Palestinians fled Palestine to other Arab states.

Lesson Activity

Watch Conflict in Israel and Palestine:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wo2TLIMhi>

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Practice

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the Balfour Declaration?
2. What did the Partition Plan attempt to do?
3. What was the cause and result of the Israeli-Arab War of 1948?
4. What was the effect of the Six-days War?

Answers

1. British document that promised land in Palestine as homeland for Jews in exchange for Jews help in WWI
2. The Partition Plan called for two states roughly equal in size, but the borders looked like a jigsaw puzzle.
3. The Israelis won, and when an armistice was signed in 1949, Israel occupied a third more land than they would have had under the UN proposal. After the Arab-Israeli War over 700,000 Palestinians fled their homes and became refugees in the surrounding Arab countries. To Israelis, this was the

beginning of their nation; to the Palestinians, it was the nakba, the catastrophe, as they became stateless.

4. A war between Israel and the neighboring states of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. At the war's end, Israel had gained control of the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. The results of the war affect the geopolitics of the region to this day.