

## **Finding Peace in the Middle East**

**Title:** Finding Peace in the Middle East

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**Grade Level:** 9 - 12

**Subject/Content:** Social Studies (World History, Current Events, Global Studies), English/Language Arts

**Summary of Lesson:** Students will examine the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. They will research the views of both sides involved, and formulate their own proposed solution to the conflict in a five-paragraph essay.

**Focus Question:** What should be done to resolve the Arab-Israeli Conflict?

**Database(s):** *Global Issues in Context*

### **Documents:**

Arab-Israeli Conflict Decision Making Model  
Arab-Israeli Conflict Essay

### **Procedures:**

1. Arrange for student access to *Global Issues in Context*
2. Create a large T-Chart for classroom display. One side should be labeled "Israeli Viewpoint" and the other should be labeled "Palestinian/Arab Viewpoint."
3. Facilitate a class discussion about the history, events, and different views of the Arab-Israeli Conflict.
4. During class discussions, record opposing beliefs and viewpoints on the T-Chart.
5. If desired, arrange for student access to word processing software to type the essay.

### **Steps/Activities by student(s):**

1. For background of the conflict, students may read "1948 The Birth of Israel" (from *New York Times Upfront*, Apr 14, 2008) and view the timeline (Chronology) titled, "So Many Plans, so Little Peace" (from *Global Agenda*, Sep 30, 2003) (both items available through *Global Issues in Context* database).

2. As a class (or in groups), students should generate a list of major events in the conflict.
3. For each event, students should list at least one effect of the event.
4. Students will view the Issue Portal for the Arab-Israeli Conflict. They can be assigned to different topics, events, or people if desired.
5. In order to understand both sides of the issue, students should discuss and share what they have learned about both the Arab and Israeli viewpoints and motivations for each event and occurrence.
6. During discussion, these views should be listed on the T-Chart displayed on classroom wall.
7. After discussing the causes and effects of events, have students explore possible solutions to the conflict.
8. After students are familiar with the background, causes, and opposing viewpoints, they will then begin to brainstorm their own ideas for bringing peace to the region. Students should use all of their materials, including the background articles and notes, timelines, cause/effect list, and T-chart to help them.
9. Students will complete a decision-making model to help plan their own solution(s). Their proposals must include a solution for Jerusalem, the Jewish Settlements, and the Gaza Strip (see handout).
10. Once the decision-making model is completed, students will compose a 5-paragraph essay explaining their ideas for peace in the Middle East (see handout).

**Outcome:** Students will have an understanding of this very complex issue, including the cause and effect of various actions taken by the groups involved. They will understand how to take a stance and support it with evidence within the structure of an essay.

**Related Activities:**

- Students may turn their essay into a letter to be mailed to a public official.
- Students may evaluate their proposed solutions for possible problems that may arise based on their suggested actions.
- Students may conduct a discussion/debate to promote their own peace plan.

## Arab-Israeli Conflict Decision Making Model

### Option One: Status Quo

Summary:	Pros (positives):	Cons (negatives):
Things will stay the same as they are now. Israel will continue to control all of Palestine, including the parts inhabited mostly by Israelis and the parts inhabited mostly by Palestinians. There is fighting in the Palestinian areas, where the Palestinian people are resisting the Israeli rule. Jewish settlers will continue to live within the occupied territories (namely the West Bank). Jerusalem will remain under Israeli control. Palestinian refugees will remain in camps or in the other Arab countries where they have been living for decades.		

### Option Two: \_\_\_\_\_

Here, you will create your own option. What policy do you think the Israelis and Palestinians should follow? What should the future of Israel and the Palestinians be? Use your notes, this chart, and the information that you have on other peace plans to create your own option.

Summary:	Pros (positives):	Cons (negatives):

## Arab-Israeli Conflict Essay

You will be using the knowledge that you have gained during our unit on the Middle East to write a five paragraph essay. Using your decision making model, you will choose the option that you think is best and write an essay describing it. **This will count as your assessment on the Middle East.**

*Introduction Paragraph:* Here you will introduce the topic and give background information. Your thesis statement must be the last sentence of this paragraph. Remember: the thesis statement is the main idea of your essay. Your thesis must explain what your option will do about the control of Jerusalem, the Palestinian refugees, and the Jewish settlers living in the West Bank. Underline your thesis statement.

*Body Paragraph 1:* Your first sentence of the paragraph is the topic sentence. It should state what will be done about Jerusalem if your option is chosen (take this directly from your thesis). Follow your topic sentence with greater details and examples. Explain why this would be better than other options.

*Body Paragraph 2:* Your first sentence of the paragraph is the topic sentence. It should state what will happen to the Palestinian refugees if your option is chosen (take this directly from your thesis). Follow your topic sentence with greater details and examples. Explain why this would be better than other options.

*Body Paragraph 3:* Your first sentence of the paragraph is the topic sentence. It should state what will happen to the Jewish settlers living in the West Bank if your option is chosen (take this directly from your thesis). Follow your topic sentence with greater details and examples. Explain why this would be better than other options.

*Conclusion:* In this paragraph you will sum up what you have said already. You should restate your thesis and explain how the option that you have chosen will affect the future of Israel/Palestine. Remind the reader why this is the best option (over other options). You may want to talk about why it is important for this situation to be resolved. A good conclusion always causes the reader to look beyond the current situation and into the future.

**\*\*You should use all of your materials on the Middle East to help you with the essay. The notes, Middle East Internet Research, CNN activity, Geneva Accords, Movie Viewing Sheet, and other assignments will all provide information that will help you.**

**\*\*This essay may be handwritten or typed, but it must be legible in order to receive credit.**

**\*\*You may not work with other students on this essay. You may use sources other than the ones listed above. All words must be your own.**

**\*\*This essay will be due on \_\_\_\_\_.**