



Six lessons on Palestine

(1) Israel-Palestine – outline of the issue and the history

Aims of these six sessions on main 'six lessons' page.

Objectives for this session – students will have an initial outline of the history of Palestine and understand that the issue relates to takeover of land and not to religion as such.

Materials:

- See slides [HERE](#)
- Pictures of Palestine on laminated cards
- Worksheets of maps to label
- Worksheets of shrinking maps,
- glue
- history statements on cut-up paper so can be stuck down in order near to these maps. These statements are at the bottom of this file...**

	Materials
1. Pictures of Palestine – give them out – Ask, any idea where this is?	Pictures on cards
2. Hear their ideas and why – establish that actually it is Palestine.. Do they know anything about it? 3. Do they know that this is a subject that a lot of people care about – so we are going to see why. Explain that this school is going to be part of the A Place Called Home project. We will be evaluating it so your views are welcome on this at any time. And if there is anything that concerns you about this you can get in touch with us at any time, either in the class or outside it.	
4. Come back to the picture with the Wall down the middle – have you any idea what this is showing? If anyone does, ask 'why' .. explain we will be coming back to it.	Slide of Wall picture

<p>5. What do they know about Palestine if anything? Write up all ideas and carry on ... if there are things to come back to, note them....</p>	<p>Slide of questions</p>
<p>6. Where is Palestine? Elicit. See what your school maps show. Establish that there is a land issue between Israel and Palestine which we will explore in a minute.</p>	<p>Slide of "where is it?" On left, European school map that leaves out Palestine. On right in Arabic, Palestinian school map that leaves out Israel.</p>
<p>7. Establishing names of places... everyone gets a map to label</p>	<p>Labelling map from Quaker pack – copies for everyone.</p> <p>Also on slide</p>
<p>8. Now why is this place chopped up like this and what does it mean? Let's look at what has happened over time – see if you can work out which of these things relates to which map.</p> <p>9. Young people explain what they have discovered.</p>	<p>'Palestine disappears from the map' slide</p> <p>Worksheet of the same map, glue, cards of things that happened for people to put in order (See below **)</p>
<p>10. Different stories. The book on the left of the slide is praising the Zionist immigration to Palestine, saying it turned stones and sand into cities. This fitted with the Zionist slogan "A land without a people for a people without a land" The Palestinians point out that they were living there, farming there, running cities as well as villages and that it was a lie to call this an empty land .</p> <p>For example, there was not just sand where Tel Aviv is built now. There was the historic town of Jaffa – still there though now many of its old families have become refugees and the old buildings are full of tourist shops.</p>	<p>What was there before? Slide</p> <p>And slide of old pictures of Palestine.</p>
<p>11. What do you think that young people of your age think at the point that Israel was created–? Together in small groups try to put yourself in their places and think about how young people of your age might have thought in 1948 - consider BOTH children from Zionist or Israeli families, coming to Israel or born there AND Children from Palestinian families who heard what was happening in other villages and/ or whose families had been made into refugees. If you were (1) or you are (2) what would you have thought?</p>	<p>What did they think? - slide</p>

<p>12. Back together, collect some of these ideas. Of course we can see this from at least two sides, but actually this is not about religion. Put up slide of takeover of land in US and Israel. Elicit as much as possible – what is it showing? The US also was built of settlements from Europe... What would a settler child have thought there, what would a native American child have thought there?</p>	<p>Slide of US and Israel/Palestine</p>
<p>13. Some people want to make this into a question of Jews and Muslims but this is not the case... Apart from anything else, Palestinians are Muslims (mainly) and Christians too – And not all Jews see Zionism in the same way.</p>	<p>Slide of anti-Zionist Jews</p>
<p>14. If there is time, the very beginning of this little film.... (note that this was made by a Jewish group.</p>	<p>Slide of link to film. Could if rushed play just the beginning because we will come back to it next time.-</p>
<p>15. If time it is worth pointing out that it was made by a Jewish group in the US and there are Jewish groups in the UK and elsewhere as well who say ‘not in my name.’ We should be objecting to behaviours not to people on grounds of ethnicity. More next time on what is happening now...</p>	

** History statements to be photocopied, cut up for re-ordering/matching.

Slide of ‘Palestine disappears from the map - page 1’

CARDS (do not need numbers on!)

1 – Before the first world war, Palestine was this country on the east of the Mediterranean. It was ruled by the Ottomans (Turkish rule) as all that part of the world had been for 400 years.

2- The western European countries won the first world war and France and Britain divided the Middle East between them. Britain took control of Palestine under what was called the British Mandate.

3- since the end of the nineteenth century a movement of Jewish people called Zionists (this was not all Jews) wanted to establish a state for themselves. They thought of some other places but then decided they wanted Palestine because of an old religious connection.

4 – some Zionist Jews began to travel to Palestine but not many at this stage.

5 - during the first world war the Zionist leaders persuaded the British government to write a letter (Balfour Declaration) promising that Palestine should become a homeland for the Jews, which is what the Zionists wanted.

5 – During British control (the British Mandate), there was more Jewish immigration to Palestine. But they did not want to live there WITH the Palestinians: the idea was that they wanted the land for themselves. The Palestinians were upset and there was protest and pressure in all directions.

6 – During the 1930s and the rise of Hitler in Germany, the Jews were subject to terrible anti-semitism and you will have heard of the Holocaust. Many Jews left Europe and more came to Palestine.

7 – Britain asked the UN for help and (with encouragement from the Zionists) the UN produced a plan to divide Palestine between Jews and Arabs, in 1947

8 – The Arabs weren't happy as more than half of their country would be given away – in 1948 there was a war with some help from the Arab countries and they were roundly defeated by the Zionists who took 78% of historic Palestine.

The Zionists declared a state called Israel in 1949.

9 - During this period, Zionist gangs went to village after village and pressured Palestinians to leave (what we now call 'ethnic cleansing') and around 750,000 Palestinians had to leave their homes. People were driven out at gunpoint. In some places there were massacres and the Zionist gangs made sure people knew this, as very frightened people left other villages too.

10 – The refugees went to countries around the Middle East – some richer people went further away– and they have had to make their lives in those places. Although the UN said clearly that they should be allowed home, but Israel does not want them to come back. There were even refugees who went to a different part of the country but they were not allowed back into their homes. Some of the homes were taken over and given to Israelis, others were demolished.

10 – The only bits of Palestine not taken over by Israel at this stage were the West Bank (which was ruled then by Jordan) and the Gaza Strip (which was ruled then by Egypt).

10 – Only 19 years later in the Six Days War, Israel took over the rest of Palestine. They set up an Israeli Occupation and have ruled militarily over the Palestinian population ever since.

11- Israel took more land too – Sinai in Egypt but that was given back in 2000 – and the Golan Heights in Syria: Israel remains there.

12 – Israel began to build towns on the West Bank and Gaza ('settlements') although international law clearly forbids this – an occupying power is not meant to move their civilians in.