

Cards to match to 'Palestine disappears from the map.'

The idea is to cut these up – give them (in no right order) to students who need to read, order and stick on own worksheet. Palestine disappears from the map.'

For teachers – these are, with numbers on, under the lesson plan.

CARDS

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.

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.

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.

Some Zionist Jews began to travel to Palestine but not many at this stage.

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.

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.

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.

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

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 1948.

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.

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.

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).

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.

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

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.

