

Historical Note

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most controversial, contested and emotive subjects in history. It is ongoing, and there are very different narratives offered both by (and within) either 'side'. Presenting the history in any particular way, including on this knowledge organiser, is likely to be influenced by, and create, bias.

Countries in the Middle East

1	Egypt
2	Jordan
3	Lebanon
4	Oman
5	Saudi Arabia
6	Syria
7	Turkey
8	Gaza
9	UAE
10	Yemen
11	Israel
12	Palestine
13	Cyprus
14	Kuwait
15	Bahrain
16	Qatar
17	Iraq
18	Iran



Vocabulary

Gaza Strip	The area of land in the northwest of the country, given to Palestine and ruled by Hamas.
Nakba	Literally the 'catastrophe'. How Palestinians refer to the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli war, where 700,000 Palestinians fled or were forced to leave their homes.
Palestinian National Authority (PNA)	The group of Palestinians designated to govern Gaza and some parts of the West Bank in 1994 following the Oslo accords.
Intifada	Literally 'shake off'. The Palestinian resistance to, and rebellion against, Israel occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)	Founded in 1964 to represent the Palestinian people and create the State of Palestine. Used violence and was considered a terrorist organisation by Israel and the US until 1993.
Zionism	The movement and belief that Judaism is a nation as well as a religion, and should have a homeland in what is now Israel.
Hamas	A fundamentalist Islamist organisation which rules Gaza. Regarded as a terrorist organisation by Israel, the US & the EU.
Israel	A country created in 1948 for Jewish people. Also a biblical Kingdom founded by the Hebrews fleeing Egypt.
Palestine	Geographical & historical area in the Middle East. Contains many holy sites including Jerusalem. Not an official country yet.
West Bank	The area of land in the east of Palestine, ruled by the PNA.

Timeline - Ancient History and the Middle East

12.000 BCE	First human settle in small houses in pits across Jordan and Syria.
3500 BCE	Sumerians & Mesopotamians form the world's first major civilisations.
1250 BCE	Following Hebrew exodus from Egypt (led by Moses), the Kingdom of Israel is established in Canaan under King Saul, and then King David.
1041 BCE	Jerusalem designated the capital of the Kingdom of Israel.
50 CE	Christianity emerges and spreads across the region.
618 CE	Islam emerges after the prophet Muhammad travels to Medina in Saudi Arabia and
634	Following Muhammad's death, a series of Islamic conquest begin, and the Arab Empire begins to flourish.
759-1258	Baghdad becomes capital of Arab-Islamic empire; Middle East sees a period of economic, scientific and cultural success.
1189-1192	King Richard leads the Third Crusade, reconquering much of the Holy Land (Palestine) from Saladin but failing to capture Jerusalem.
1258	Mongols invade the Middle East ending the Arab-Islamic empire.
1527-1918	Ottoman Empire extends through most of the Arab world.

Timeline - Recent History and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

1897	First Zionist congress: Led by Thomas Herzl, a new Zionist organisation proposed creating a nation for the Jewish people in Palestine.
1917	The Balfour Declaration: The British promise Jewish people a national home in Palestine. (They had secretly also promised Palestine to Meccans).
1918	British Rule: France and Britain divide control of the middle east after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Britain takes control of Palestine region.
1936	Immigration: Facilitated by the British, huge numbers of European Jews immigrate to Palestine. Palestinians revolt against their British rulers.
1947	UN Partition Plan: The United Nations proposes a partition of Palestine to create a nation for Jewish people. The League of Arab States reject the plan.
1948	First Arab-Israeli War: Israel declares itself an independent nation. It is invaded by neighboring Arab states and war breaks out. Israel wins the war, occupying more land than in the original UN plan. 700.000 Palestinians become refugees.
1967	The Six Day War: After Egypt mobilises troops, Israel goes to war with Egypt, Jordan & Syria, taking control of Sinai, the West Bank, Gaza and Golan Heights.
1987	First Intifada: Palestinians rebel against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by refusing to pay Israeli taxes and boycotting Israeli products. This sparked violence between Israel armed forces and Palestinian protesters.
1993	Oslo Accords: Secret talks lead to a peace process between Israel and Palestine.
1995	Second Intifada: Much more violent uprising against Israel, after an Israeli leader marched armed guards to a Muslim Holy site in Jerusalem.
2014	Operation Protective Edge: a military operation led by Israel against Hamas ruled Gaza Strip, which led to a seven-week conflict. Thousands killed.