

Teaching the Arab-Israeli Conflict & Peace Process

Professional Development Opportunities for Middle and High School Social Studies Teachers

The Arab-Israeli conflict is in the news every day. Despite the coverage it receives, however, very few people really understand what the conflict is about, how it began, or that it has also involved a peace process. Educators are often interested in this topic (as are their students) but may not have the knowledge base, resources, or teaching strategies they need to effectively address this topic in their classrooms.

This interactive workshops give teachers the opportunity to learn both content that is relevant to today's students as global citizens and pedagogical strategies that incorporate the latest research in helping students work with a manageable set of diverse primary sources (documents such as letters, treaties, agreements, and news reports) in a variety of formats. In addition, teachers will leave the session with the lesson plans, primary source documents, maps, and related multimedia resources they need to successfully teach the Arab-Israeli conflict and peace process.

Essential Questions:

1. How have decisions made by Europeans during WWI contributed to the current conflict?
2. Where has the peace process succeeded? Failed?
3. What is at stake in the conflict today?

Overall objectives:

- Connect the history and background of the Arab-Israeli conflict and peace process to the present through primary source sources and teaching strategies that support close, analytic reading and evidence-based responses
- Address the standards-based content of this curriculum (Common Core HSS and ELA, C3, and National Geography), particularly as it relates to nationalism, the consequences of World War I, the post-World War II world, and the causes of unrest in the Middle East

With respect to content knowledge, educators will be able to:

- Place the origins of the conflict in the context of emerging Arab Nationalism and Zionism
- Discuss how broken promises made to Arabs and Jews during World War I set the stage for current challenges in the Middle East
- Trace the development of the formation of the State of Israel from the Mandate period up to 1948.
- Identify key moments in the Arab-Israeli conflict from 1948 to the present, including previous successes and failures in the peace process and current issues to be negotiated
- Understand the complexity of regional, social, economic, and political challenges

In terms of skills, participants will be able to:

- Introduce students to the Arab-Israeli conflict through primary and secondary source analysis and map interpretation
- Support student learning through new literacy strategies
- Facilitate both independent and collaborative learning
- Foster topic-specific vocabulary development

Who we are:

At ICS, we believe that students who are better informed become better citizens in our pluralistic society. That's why ICS is dedicated to training teachers and developing curriculum that is accurate, pedagogically sound, and aligned with both state and national standards.

Our work impacts the quality of education for millions of public and private school students who learn about issues related to Jews, Judaism, and Israel each year.

As students begin to understand and appreciate the complexity of the diverse world in which they live, they are more likely to embrace it.



Participants in ICS professional development workshops receive:

- **\$100 honorarium for attending**
- **Free lesson plans and classroom-ready curricular resources**

Sample Program for a 3 to 3.5 hour professional development workshop

Setting the Stage:

Context and Background of the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Using technology in the social studies classroom
Spread of nationalism in 19th century Europe
The rise of Zionism and Arab nationalism

Impact of World War I on current situation:

Broken Promises Made to Arabs and Jews during WWI

Source analysis strategies
Work on primary source texts connected to WWI

Brief overview:

The Mandate Era

Using maps to understand history
Arabs and Jews under British rule
Proposals for Partition into Arab and Jewish states

Exploring media literacy in the period from:

1948 to the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty

Historical video clips as primary sources
Israel becomes a state
1967 War and its aftermath
Egypt and Israel negotiate a peace agreement

Moving into the present:

Key moments

First & Second Intifadas
Oslo Accords (1993)
Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement
Disengagement from Gaza

Overview of Unresolved Issues

Wrap-up and evaluation

This workshop can be adapted to meet your needs