

Israel
Beyond Our Borders Series

Subject Areas: Geography, History, Social Studies, Religion

Synopsis:

A journey to Israel reveals the historical reasons why this region is a holy land to three great religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Travels throughout the country highlighting the geography and relating historical events to the places they occurred. Closes with tributes to the victims of the Holocaust, and the acknowledgment that remembrance of Nazi atrocities defines the spirit of modern Israel and the Israelis dedication, "to life!"

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to describe the distinctive geographical and historical regions of Israel.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to explain the historical reasons for Israel being the Holy Land for three great religions.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to describe successful approaches to creating religious tolerance in the ancient city of Jerusalem.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to defend the roots of Israeli determination to enjoy life to the fullest.

Vocabulary:

monotheistic, monotheism, hallowed, besieged, legendary, visionary, Zionism, despised minority, Ottoman Empire, obsessive, charismatic, Redeemer, ascended, bondage, Jewry, devout, Cohanim, fervently, contemplated, replica, custodians, Christendom, culmination, fervent, esplanade, venerated, stoning, verve, reverberates, devotees, perpetual, zealots, redoubt, formidable, metaphor, intellectual ferment, cosmopolitan, embarrassment of riches, infusion, outcrops, collective imagination

Pre-Viewing Questions and Activities:

- 1) Where is Israel located? What countries are located nearby?
- 2) What three great religions call Israel "the Holy Land"?
- 3) Why is Israel still at war?
- 4) What other wars have occurred on Israeli soil?

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- 5) Who were some of the historical rulers and leaders of this ancient region?

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Why is Jerusalem a holy city for Muslims, for Christians and for Jews?
- 2) What traditions and unwritten agreements allow the three religions to co-exist in relative peace during the holy days for each religion?
- 3) Who was the founder of Zionism? What was his vision for Jews of his generation?
- 4) When and under what circumstances were Jews able to return to Israel?
- 5) What areas of Israel are strongly influenced by American culture?
- 6) How do Israelis pay tribute to victims of the Holocaust?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Investigate how the architectural design of Yad Vashem contributes to Israeli understanding of the role of the Holocaust in their lives.
- 2) Compare the musical offerings of the Israeli National Symphony Orchestra with those of the New York Philharmonic.
- 3) Determine the reasons why young Palestinians become suicide bombers.
- 4) Discover religious beliefs that are common to Islam, Christianity and Judaism.
- 5) Investigate the diamond trade centered in Tel Aviv.

FOR INFORMATION, OR TO ORDER CONTACT:

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