Exile and Return

Trace how Jewish communities moved from and returned to their homeland.

SS24.7.8c "Outline the multiple exiles of the Jewish people and their return to Israel, from the establishment of the nation through the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD/CE."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two early forced removals and the later displacement, then circle the return under Persian rule. Number these four changes in order to trace movement away from and back to the homeland.

From Kingdoms to Communities Abroad

1. Around 1000 BCE, the Israelites established a kingdom in the land of Israel. Jerusalem later became its capital and a center of worship. After the kingdom split, Israel lay in the north and Judah in the south. In 722 BCE, Assyria conquered the northern kingdom of Israel. Assyrian rulers forced many Israelites to move to other parts of their empire. This was an exile, or forced removal from a homeland. Some people stayed, but many families lost their homes and their ties to nearby communities.

2. Judah survived Assyria, but Babylon conquered Jerusalem in 586 BCE. Babylonian forces destroyed the First Temple and took many people from Judah to Babylonia. Others remained in the land. In exile, Jewish communities kept traditions alive, including worship and study. In 539 BCE, Persia defeated Babylon. The Persian ruler Cyrus allowed exiled people to go home and rebuild places of worship. Beginning soon afterward, some Jewish families returned to Judah and Jerusalem. The Second Temple was completed around 516 BCE, though many Jewish people continued to live outside their homeland.

3. Rome took control of Judah in 63 BCE. Jewish people lived in their homeland and in communities across the Mediterranean. Tensions under Roman rule led to a revolt in 66 CE. In 70 CE, Roman soldiers captured Jerusalem and destroyed the Second Temple. Many Jewish people were killed, enslaved, or displaced, while others remained in the land. Unlike the Babylonian exile, this event was not followed by an imperial order inviting exiles home. The destruction deepened a pattern of Jewish life both in the homeland and abroad.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which kingdom faced exile first? Explain how its people were forced to move.

2. How did the Babylonian conquest move people away from Judah, and what changed after Persia defeated Babylon?

3. How did the events of 70 CE change where Jewish people lived? What does the passage say about people who stayed?

4. How was the return under Cyrus different from what followed the Roman destruction of Jerusalem?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum label tracing Jewish movement from the northern and southern kingdoms through 70 CE. Include both early exiles, the Persian-era return, and why Jewish communities lived both in and outside the homeland after 70 CE.

ANSWER KEY

Exile and Return

GRADE 7 · SS24.7.8c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two early forced removals and the later displacement, then circle the return under Persian rule. Number these four changes in order to trace movement away from and back to the homeland. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which kingdom faced exile first? Explain how its people were forced to move.	**The northern kingdom of Israel faced exile first. After conquering it in 722 BCE, Assyria forced many Israelites to move to other parts of its empire.**
2	How did the Babylonian conquest move people away from Judah, and what changed after Persia defeated Babylon?	**Babylon took many people from Judah to Babylonia. After Persia defeated Babylon, Cyrus allowed exiled people to return, and some families went back to Judah and Jerusalem.**
3	How did the events of 70 CE change where Jewish people lived? What does the passage say about people who stayed?	**After Rome captured Jerusalem, many Jewish people were enslaved or displaced, while others remained in the land.**
4	How was the return under Cyrus different from what followed the Roman destruction of Jerusalem?	**Cyrus allowed exiled people to return and rebuild places of worship. No imperial order invited exiles home after the Roman destruction in 70 CE.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the kingdom split, Assyria conquered northern Israel in 722 BCE and forced many Israelites away. Babylon conquered Judah in 586 BCE, destroyed the First Temple, and took many people to Babylonia. After Persia defeated Babylon, Cyrus allowed exiles to return, and some families rebuilt their lives in Judah. In 70 CE, Rome destroyed the Second Temple in Jerusalem, and many Jewish people were enslaved or displaced. Because some people remained and others lived abroad, Jewish communities continued both in the homeland and elsewhere.

Accept BCE and CE dates when accurate, but prioritize the order of events and the distinction between forced removal and permitted return. Students should not suggest that everyone left during an exile or that everyone returned under Cyrus.