

# Conflict Connections

Trace how land, religion, and identity can keep conflicts going.

**SS7H2.c** "Describe how land and religion plays a role in continuing conflicts in the Middle East (i.e. the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the division between Sunni and Shia Muslims, and Kurdish nationalism)."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each sentence that clearly explains how land, religion, or group identity helps a conflict continue. Do not underline sentences that give only background or describe identity, then write P, S, or K in the margin for the conflict discussed and circle L for land or R for religion or group identity.

### Why Conflicts Continue

- ① The Palestinian-Israeli conflict involves two peoples who both seek safety, political control, and a homeland in the same area. Palestinians seek a state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, while Israel controls territory that Palestinians also claim. Disputes continue over borders, Israeli settlements in the West Bank, security, and control of Jerusalem. Jerusalem matters politically and religiously because it contains sites sacred to Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Decisions about land and holy places can make compromise difficult.
- ② Sunni and Shia Muslims share many beliefs, but they disagree about who should have led the Muslim community after the Prophet Muhammad died in 632. This disagreement began as a question of leadership and developed into distinct religious traditions. In some countries, political leaders and armed groups use Sunni or Shia identity to gain support or exclude rivals. People may fear that another sect will control government, jobs, or religious freedom. These fears can keep conflicts active, even though many Sunnis and Shias live peacefully together.
- ③ Kurdish nationalism is the movement for Kurdish people to protect their identity and seek self-rule or political rights. Kurds live mainly in Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria, rather than in one independent Kurdish state. Some Kurdish groups want greater local power, while some governments fear that autonomy or independence could change national borders. Limits on Kurdish language, culture, or political participation can deepen anger and mistrust. Competing claims about land and government power have contributed to continuing conflict in several countries.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** Name two land-related issues that continue the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

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**2** Why can Jerusalem make compromise in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict difficult?

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**3** How can Sunni or Shia identity be used in a way that keeps a conflict active?

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**4** What disagreement over power and land can contribute to conflict involving Kurdish nationalism?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences comparing the Palestinian-Israeli conflict with Kurdish nationalism. Explain one land-related factor in each conflict, then explain one important difference between them.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each sentence that clearly explains how land, religion, or group identity helps a conflict continue. Do not underline sentences that give only background or describe identity, then write P, S, or K in the margin for the conflict discussed and circle L for land or R for religion or group identity. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                        | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Name two land-related issues that continue the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.                    | <b>Any two: disputed borders, Israeli settlements in the West Bank, control of Jerusalem, or competing claims to territory.</b>                                                                                              |
| 2 | Why can Jerusalem make compromise in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict difficult?                | <b>Jerusalem contains sites sacred to Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, so decisions about the city and its holy places are religiously important.</b>                                                                       |
| 3 | How can Sunni or Shia identity be used in a way that keeps a conflict active?                   | <b>Political leaders or armed groups may use sect identity to gain support or exclude rivals. People may also fear another sect controlling government, jobs, or religious freedom.</b>                                      |
| 4 | What disagreement over power and land can contribute to conflict involving Kurdish nationalism? | <b>Some Kurdish groups seek greater local power, while governments may fear that Kurdish autonomy or independence would change national borders. Competing claims about land and government power can continue conflict.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

In the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, competing claims to territory and control of Jerusalem make compromise difficult. In Kurdish nationalism, competing claims about land and government power can cause conflict. Both involve land, but religious holy places are especially important in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Accept clearly stated, passage-based explanations using equivalent wording. For the comparison, students should identify a land factor in both conflicts and a valid difference, such as the special role of holy places in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.