Claims and Borders

Trace the origins of Israel and the conflict that continues

WH.6.8 "Explain the origins of the modern State of Israel and the ongoing conflict with Palestine and the Arab World."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two causes of Israel's creation, and circle two developments that help explain why the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues.

How Did the Conflict Develop?

1. Before 1917, the land now called Israel and the Palestinian territories was part of the Ottoman Empire. Its people included Arabic-speaking Muslims and Christians as well as Jews. In the late 1800s, Zionism grew as a movement for a Jewish homeland, partly in response to antisemitism in Europe. Palestinians, who lived in the same land, also sought political control over their future. After World War I, Britain governed the area. In 1917, Britain had declared support for a Jewish national home there while saying the rights of existing non-Jewish communities should be protected. These commitments created competing expectations.

2. After World War II and the Holocaust, many Jewish survivors sought safety, while demands for independence intensified. In 1947, the United Nations proposed dividing British-ruled Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem under international administration. Jewish leaders accepted the plan; Arab leaders rejected it, arguing that it denied Palestinians self-determination. In 1948, Jewish leaders declared the State of Israel. Armies from neighboring Arab states entered the war that followed. More than 700,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled, an event Palestinians call the Nakba, or catastrophe. Israel survived; Jordan controlled the West Bank, and Egypt controlled Gaza. No Palestinian state emerged.

3. In the 1967 war, Israel captured the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza, areas Palestinians seek for a state. Israel later built settlements in the West Bank; most countries consider these illegal under international law, while Israel disputes that view. The 1993 Oslo accords brought mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization but did not settle borders, refugees, Jerusalem, or security. Palestinians seek self-determination and an end to occupation; Israelis seek security and recognition. Violence against civilians, restrictions on movement, and distrust have deepened suffering. Peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan did not end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Zionism and British policy each help set the stage for Israel's creation?

2. Why did the United Nations partition proposal produce disagreement between Jewish and Arab leaders?

3. How did the 1948 war leave an issue that remains central to the conflict?

4. Why did mutual recognition in 1993 not end the conflict?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum label of four to six sentences explaining how one development before 1948 and one development after 1948 connect to a present-day disagreement. Include both an Israeli and a Palestinian perspective.

ANSWER KEY

Claims and Borders

HIGH SCHOOL · WH.6.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two causes of Israel's creation, and circle two developments that help explain why the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Zionism and British policy each help set the stage for Israel's creation?	**Zionism called for a Jewish homeland, and Britain declared support for a Jewish national home in the area it later governed.**
2	Why did the United Nations partition proposal produce disagreement between Jewish and Arab leaders?	**Jewish leaders accepted the proposed Jewish state, while Arab leaders rejected the division because they argued it denied Palestinians self-determination.**
3	How did the 1948 war leave an issue that remains central to the conflict?	**More than 700,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled, creating an unresolved refugee issue. No Palestinian state emerged.**
4	Why did mutual recognition in 1993 not end the conflict?	**The Oslo accords did not resolve borders, refugees, Jerusalem, or security, including disputes connected to land captured in 1967.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before 1948, Britain supported a Jewish national home in a land where Palestinians also sought self-determination. This raised competing expectations about who would govern the territory. After Israel captured the West Bank in 1967, it built settlements there, adding a major dispute over land. Many Palestinians view an end to occupation as necessary for statehood, while many Israelis emphasize security and recognition. These different priorities help explain why agreement on borders remains difficult.

Accept other passage-supported causes and continuing disputes when students explain the connection. Responses should distinguish the perspectives described without suggesting that every member of either group holds the same view.