A State Takes Shape

Trace the decisions and competing claims behind Israel's creation.

MWH.C.7.2.A "Describe the creation of the modern State of Israel, including the rationale for its establishment, the Zionist movement, increased migration of Jews to the British Mandate for Palestine, and the United Nations Partition Plan."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline reasons people supported a Jewish state, circle changes in Jewish migration, and number the steps from the UN plan to Israel's declaration of independence.

From Homeland Movement to State

1. In the late 1800s, many Jews in Europe faced antisemitism, including discrimination and attacks. Zionism arose as a movement seeking a Jewish homeland in Palestine, a region Jews considered their historic homeland. Many Zionists argued that self-government could provide safety and help Jewish culture flourish. Palestinian Arabs also lived there and had deep ties to the land. They wanted a say in its future, raising a question that would become urgent: how could both peoples' goals be met?

2. After World War I, Britain governed Palestine under a League of Nations mandate. Jewish migration to the area grew during the 1920s and 1930s, as some newcomers pursued Zionist goals and others fled persecution, especially Nazi rule in Europe. British officials had promised support for a Jewish national home, but also faced opposition from Palestinian Arabs who feared losing land and political control. In 1939, Britain restricted Jewish immigration, even as danger to Europe's Jews increased.

3. After the Holocaust, in which Nazi Germany murdered six million Jews, many survivors sought refuge and a state where Jews could govern themselves. In 1947, the United Nations proposed dividing British-ruled Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem under international control. Jewish leaders accepted the plan; Arab leaders rejected it as unfair to the Arab majority. Britain ended its mandate in May 1948, and Jewish leaders declared Israel's independence. Fighting intensified, and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were expelled.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did antisemitism shape the goal of Zionism?

2. Why did Jewish migration to Palestine grow under British rule, and how did Britain respond in 1939?

3. What did the 1947 UN plan propose, and why did Arab leaders reject it?

4. How did the UN plan and the end of British rule relate to Israel's creation?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 65 to 85 word museum label explaining how Zionism, migration under British rule, and the UN plan contributed to Israel's creation. Include a reason Jewish supporters sought a state and one Palestinian concern.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline reasons people supported a Jewish state, circle changes in Jewish migration, and number the steps from the UN plan to Israel's declaration of independence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did antisemitism shape the goal of Zionism?	**Antisemitism led many Zionists to seek a Jewish homeland where self-government could offer safety.**
2	Why did Jewish migration to Palestine grow under British rule, and how did Britain respond in 1939?	**People migrated to pursue Zionist goals or escape persecution, especially Nazi rule. Britain restricted Jewish immigration in 1939.**
3	What did the 1947 UN plan propose, and why did Arab leaders reject it?	**It proposed separate Jewish and Arab states and international control of Jerusalem. Arab leaders considered the division unfair to the Arab majority.**
4	How did the UN plan and the end of British rule relate to Israel's creation?	**Jewish leaders accepted the plan and declared Israel independent when Britain ended its mandate in May 1948.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Zionists sought a Jewish homeland where Jews could govern themselves, partly because antisemitism threatened their safety. Under British rule, Jewish migration increased, especially as people fled Nazi persecution. After the Holocaust, the UN proposed Jewish and Arab states in Palestine. Jewish leaders accepted the plan and declared Israel independent in 1948. Palestinian Arabs opposed the division because they saw it as unfair and feared losing control of their homeland. The new state emerged amid war and Palestinian displacement.

Accept responses that connect the movement, migration, and partition proposal to statehood rather than merely listing them. Students may describe Palestinian concerns about land, political control, or the fairness of partition.