Lines Left Unsettled

Trace how war, displacement, and diplomacy shaped the region

MWH.C.7.2.B "Explain how the 1948 War between five Arab states and Israel unfolded, how it contributed to a refugee crisis, and how it led to future conflicts (e.g., Six-Day War, Yom Kippur War) as well as various peace initiatives."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two changes in control of land, circle the causes and effects of displacement, and draw arrows in the margin linking the 1948 war to a later war and a peace effort.

When Fighting Stopped, Questions Remained

1. In November 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 the Arab majority political rights. Fighting between Jewish and Arab communities began before Britain withdrew. On May 14, 1948, Jewish leaders declared the State of Israel. The next day, armies from Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq entered the war against Israel. By the 1949 armistice agreements, Israel held more territory than the UN plan had assigned it; Transjordan controlled the West Bank, and Egypt controlled Gaza.

2. The fighting also transformed where people could live. About 700,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes during the fighting of 1947 through 1949. Some escaped battles, while others were driven out by Israeli forces. Many settled in camps in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Israel barred most refugees from returning, while Palestinians sought a right of return. The armistice lines ended large-scale fighting but did not create a Palestinian state or settle borders, security, or refugee claims. For families separated from their homes, the end of fighting was not the end of the crisis.

3. Those unresolved disputes helped fuel later conflicts, alongside new military and political crises. In 1967, Israel fought Egypt, Jordan, and Syria in the Six-Day War and captured Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Sinai Peninsula, and the Golan Heights. Egypt and Syria attacked Israeli-held positions in 1973, beginning the Yom Kippur War; Egypt sought to regain Sinai. Negotiations after that war helped lead to the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty, under which Israel later withdrew from Sinai. In 1993, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed the Oslo accords, beginning limited Palestinian self-rule but leaving borders and refugee claims unsettled.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the UN proposal and Israel's declaration lead into a war involving five Arab states, and how did the armistices change control of land?

2. Explain how the fighting and Israel's return policy together made Palestinian displacement a continuing crisis.

3. How did unsettled territorial questions connect the 1948 war to both the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War?

4. How did the 1979 treaty and the 1993 Oslo accords address different parts of the conflict, and what remained unsettled?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum label of 75 to 100 words explaining how one outcome of the 1948 war connects to Palestinian displacement, a later war, and a peace effort. End with a question visitors might ask about an issue that remained unsettled.

ANSWER KEY

Lines Left Unsettled

HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.7.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two changes in control of land, circle the causes and effects of displacement, and draw arrows in the margin linking the 1948 war to a later war and a peace effort. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the UN proposal and Israel's declaration lead into a war involving five Arab states, and how did the armistices change control of land?	**Arab leaders rejected the UN partition proposal, and fighting began before Israel declared independence. Armies from five Arab states entered the war the next day. By the armistices, Israel held more land than the proposal assigned it, while Transjordan controlled the West Bank and Egypt controlled Gaza.**
2	Explain how the fighting and Israel's return policy together made Palestinian displacement a continuing crisis.	**About 700,000 Palestinians fled fighting or were expelled. Israel barred most from returning, so many remained displaced and sought a right of return.**
3	How did unsettled territorial questions connect the 1948 war to both the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War?	**The 1949 armistices did not settle borders. Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza, and other territories in 1967; in 1973, Egypt attacked Israeli-held positions seeking to regain Sinai, which Israel had captured in 1967.**
4	How did the 1979 treaty and the 1993 Oslo accords address different parts of the conflict, and what remained unsettled?	**The Egypt-Israel treaty led to Israel's withdrawal from Sinai. The Oslo accords began limited Palestinian self-rule, but borders and Palestinian refugee claims remained unsettled.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The 1949 armistices left the West Bank under Transjordan's control and Gaza under Egypt's, without settling their final status. They also did not resolve the claims of Palestinians who had fled or been expelled and were barred from returning. In the Six-Day War, Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza, changing control of those lands again. The 1993 Oslo accords began limited Palestinian self-rule, but they did not settle borders or refugee claims. What would an agreement need to say about families displaced in 1948?

Accept accurate causal connections that distinguish the 1948 war from the later crises that also contributed to war. The museum label should connect all four required elements and end with a relevant question.