

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

Biography

Born in Jerusalem in 1922, Yitzhak Rabin served in the Israeli army (IDF) for twenty-seven years, rising to the position of Chief of Staff. Under his command, the IDF achieved an overwhelming victory over Egypt, Syria, and Jordan in the Six Day War. In 1968 he was appointed the Israeli ambassador to the United States. He served as Prime Minister of Israel from 1974 to 1977 and from 1992 until his assassination in 1995. Rabin played a leading role in the Oslo peace accords that created the Palestinian Authority and granted it partial control over the Gaza Strip and West Bank. The peace accords were an important step in advancing peace between Israel and Palestine; however, some Israelis resented Rabin's agreement to give up control over territory they believed rightfully belonged to Israel.

What is Mr. Rabin's profession? (circle your answer or answers)

- A. Politician
- B. Business professional
- C. Activist
- D. General

Answers:

A & D – Mr. Rabin has served as an Army General and a Politician.

Vocabulary

Ambassador: A diplomat officially appointed by one nation's government to serve as its representative to foreign nations of institutions

Can you name any American ambassadors?



1.



2.



3.



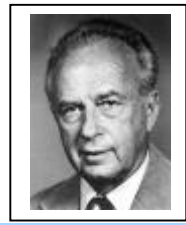
4.

Can you identify the images above?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

Answers:

1. World Map 2. Middle East 3. Israel 4. Israeli Flag



POST-VISIT ACTIVITY



The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is by no means a simple two-sided conflict with all Israelis sharing one point of view and all Palestinians another. In both communities, there are those who advocate the total territorial removal of the other community, those who favor creating two separate nations, and those who advocate a binational solution in which a single state would encompass both present-day Israel and the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Since the Oslo accords, both the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority have been officially committed to a two state solution.

The main issues that have yet to be resolved between the two sides are the status of the occupied territories (East Jerusalem, West Bank, and the Gaza Strip which are under Israeli military occupation), each side's security from attacks, the nature of the future Palestinian state, the fate of Palestinian refugees, and the fate of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

Following World War II, the United Nations recommended that Palestine be partitioned into a Jewish state and an Arab state. The plan led to the Israel's declaration of independence and the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Israel's superior military technology led to its victory and seizure of nearly 80% of Palestinian lands. This war produced 750,000 Palestinian refugees who had lived within Israel's borders. Israel refused to allow their return and their host countries refused to grant them citizenship; most continue to live in refugee camps to this day. During the Six Day War in 1967, Israel conquered the Gaza Strip and West Bank from Egypt and Jordan. The first intifada, an Islamic term for uprising that came to be used for the series of campaigns to end military occupation, began in 1987. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon recently introduced a plan for withdrawing military forces from the occupied territories; he is currently working with the Palestinian leader to peacefully accomplish withdrawal.

What is the current state of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? If you're not sure, check a recent newspaper to find out.

New Vocabulary:

Refugee: A person who flees to a foreign country to escape danger or persecution

Can you name another current world conflict that has led to large numbers of refugees?
