

Lesson 1: Introduction and Orientation

Objective: Meet the students, set the agenda and tone, calibrate knowledge and attitudes, and generate interest and excitement.

1. Introductions

Go around the room, each student (and the instructor) says:

- Name and school
- One personal fact
- Personal connection to Israel, if any (family, travel, etc.)

2. Why study Israel?

- Discussion: Why are we here? Why does the synagogue offer this class?

3. What do we know? What do we hope to learn?

- Distribute handout 1.3, ask students to take two minutes to fill it out and return (can be anonymous)

4. Conceptual map

- Draw a circle on the white board, labeled “Israel.” Ask students for free associations: What comes to mind? Brainstorm and list attributes, grouped or connected as appropriate.

5. Where in the world?

- Distribute blank map (1.5a), ask students to fill in as many country names as they can
- Go over the map together, complete all country names (1.5b)
- Give a perspective of scale: How large is Israel?

6. Interactive Quiz

What do the students know about Israel? Ask a question, post four answers on four corners of the room (1.6a-1.6t, ask students to stand under the answer they think is correct. Give correct answers.

7. Outline and timeline

- Distribute timeline (1.7a). Explain non-linear scale, “BCE” and “CE.” This timeline will be used in future classes; “You Are Here” will move depending on the specific topic or timeframe discussed.
- Distribute class outline (1.7b)

Name: _____

Some Things I Know about Israel:

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

Some Things I'd Like to Know about Israel:

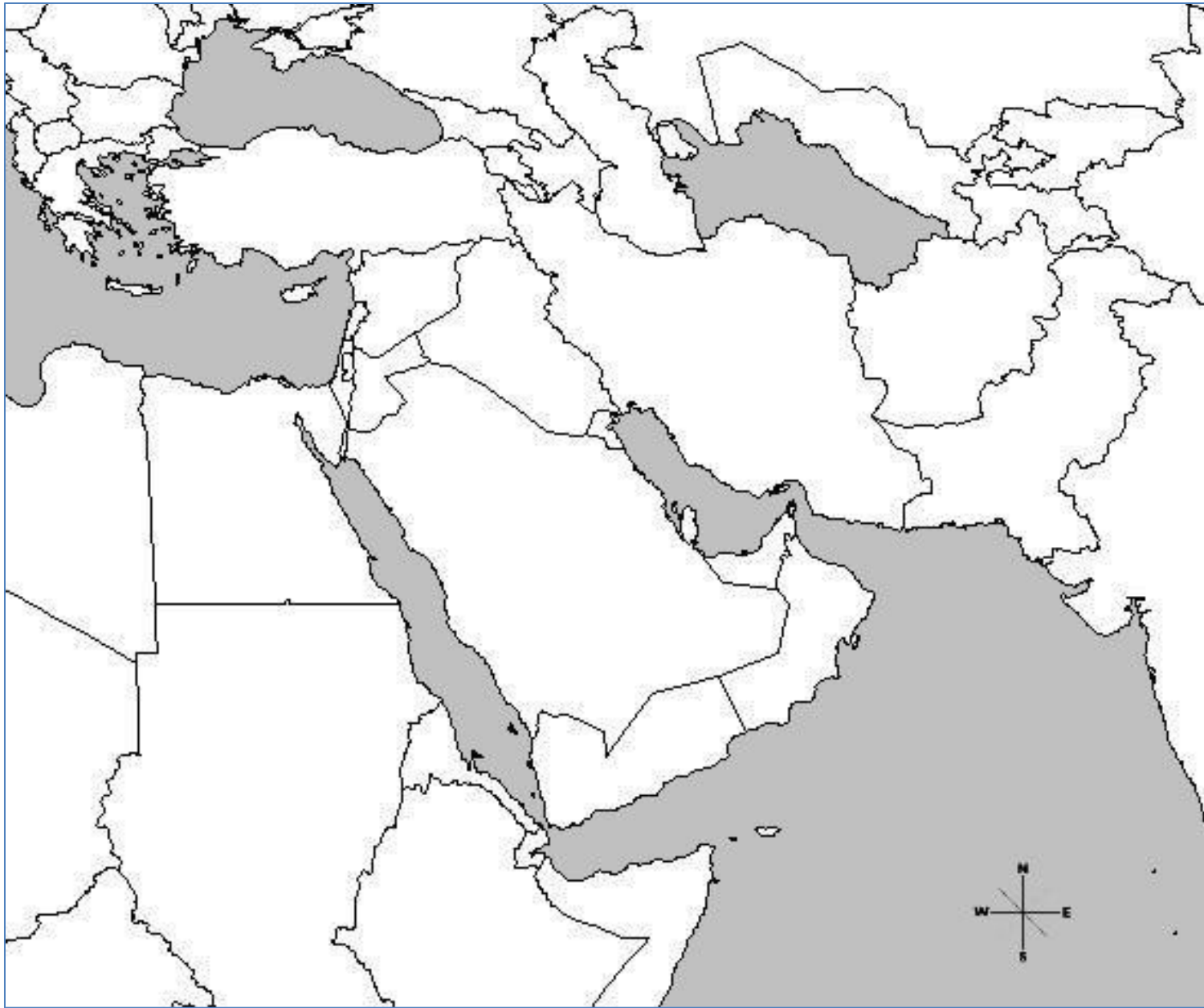
- _____

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- _____





Approximately how many
people live in Israel?

4.5 Million

Approximately how many
people live in Israel?

7.5 Million

Approximately how many
people live in Israel?

12 Million

Approximately how many
people live in Israel?

20 Million

What is Israel's official language?

Hebrew

What are Israel's official
languages?

**Hebrew and
Arabic**

What are Israel's official
languages?

**Hebrew, Arabic,
and Russian**

What are Israel's official
languages?

**Hebrew, Arabic,
Russian, English
and Amharic**

How old is the city of Jerusalem?

About 150 years

How old is the city of Jerusalem?

About 450 years

How old is the city of Jerusalem?

**About 1,100
years**

How old is the city of Jerusalem?

**About 3,000
years**

Who founded the Zionist
movement?

Theodore Herzl

Who founded the Zionist
movement?

Yitzhak Rabin

Who founded the Zionist
movement?

Yasser Arafat

Who founded the Zionist
movement?

**Lord Arthur
Balfour**

Who is the current prime
minister of Israel?

Ehud Barak

Who is the current prime
minister of Israel?

Ariel Sharon

Who is the current prime
minister of Israel?

Benjamin

Netanyahu

Who is the current prime
minister of Israel?

Shimon Peres

Israel History Timeline



Foreign Office,
November 2nd, 1917.

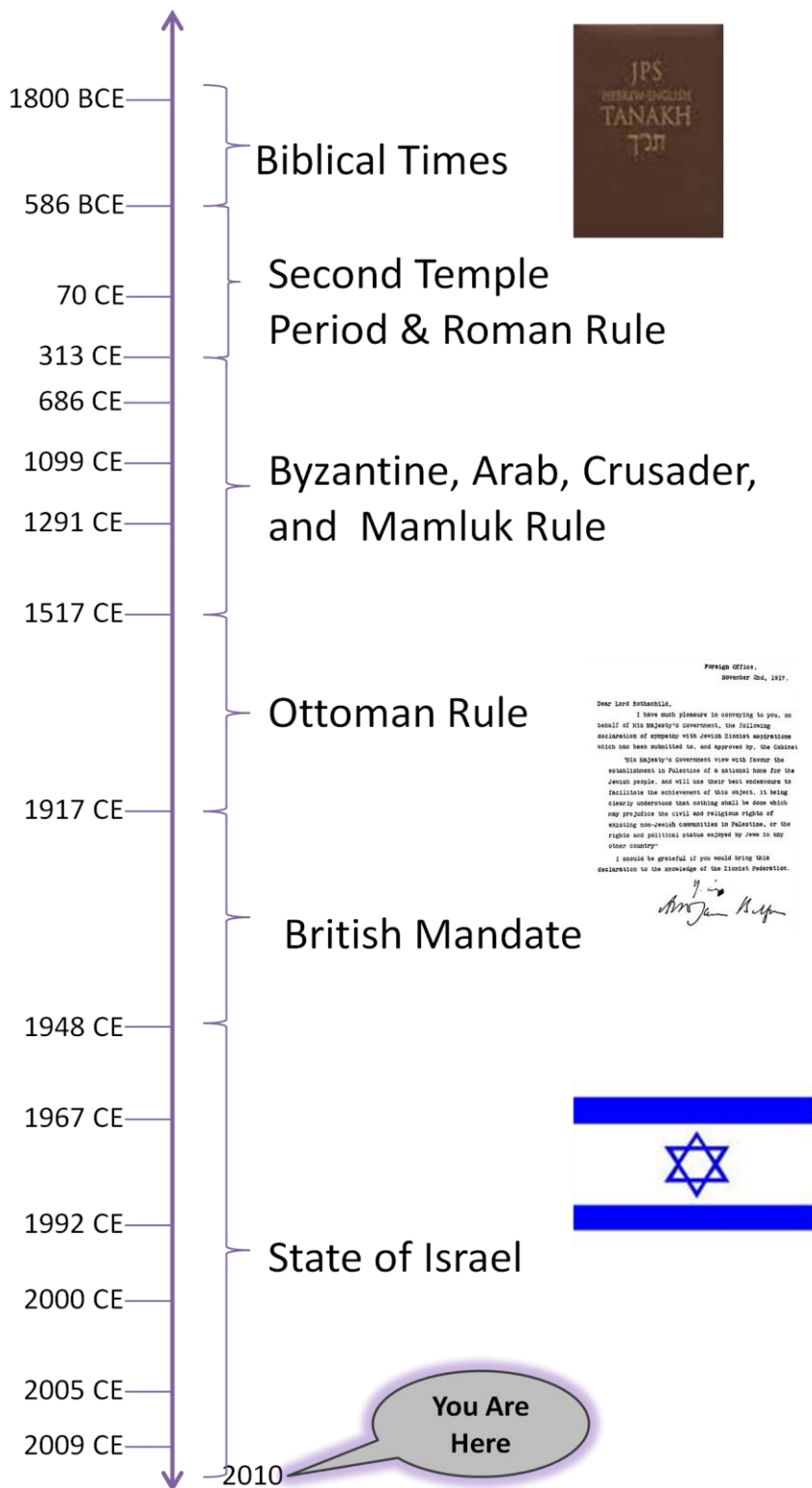
Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Arthur Balfour



Course Outline

Modern Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Nevet Basker
Congregation Beth Shalom Religious School, Fall 2010



1.	Introduction and Orientation	Tuesday, September 14, 2010
2.	The Land of Israel	Tuesday, September 21, 2010
3.	Zionism: Jewish Nationalism	Tuesday, September 28, 2010
4.	The British Mandate	Tuesday, October 5, 2010
5.	Independence	Tuesday, October 12, 2010
6.	The Six Day War	Tuesday, October 19, 2010
7.	The Quest for Peace	Tuesday, October 26, 2010
8.	The Current Conflict	Tuesday, November 2, 2010
9.	Beyond the Conflict	Tuesday, November 9, 2010
10.	Bringing It Together	Tuesday, November 16, 2010