Activity 2: The formation of Israel and Palestine.

Newsletter

There is a series of topics for the students to choose from that will cover many topics related to human rights in the Middle East. Each student will research the issues that they need to write the content for their own newsletter. As the students complete their newsletter they have to explain why they choose their topic.

The newsletter should have the minimum of a cover with a title, graphics, or photographs. There are at least two inside pages with content and a back page that will include the reason for their choice of topic. More graphics and photographs can be used. To completely deal with the topic the students have chosen they may find that they have to add more pages, especially if the groups are using graphics and photographs that are taking up more space.

Once the participants are finished their newsletter it will be shared with others in their class. The students will have to write feedback for each of their classmates’ work.

Focus

It can be argued that many leaders and groups in the former Palestine or Israel wanted to have a republic or a land for their own people that excluded others. In this way they could share the same resources, religion, language, history, culture, and society.

Explore the argument that there was an understanding among the people of the Middle East that the Arab and Jewish people should have their own nation with a defined territory. Was this really the case? If there was an agreement that there should be a home land for each group as set out in the Balfour Declaration, was there a way to attain this goal without conflict?

Issues to examine in the newsletter:

- If the Palestinians and Israelis accepted the idea of voluntarily forming their own nations, would this reduce the need to continuously find ways of getting along with each other?
- Were there too many animosities to find an effective and peaceful resolution to the desires of each group?
- What would happen to those individuals or groups that felt a strong tie to their home that may have to move to a geographically different homeland?
- Can Israel and Palestine exist, that still allowed minorities of other ethnic groups to exist within its borders?
- Overall, is the idea of grouping together with those of the same ethnic and religious group an effective way of fulfilling the needs of the individuals?
- Is isolation and separation what is really needed for the Palestinians and Israelis to be strong and prosperous?
- Regardless of how regions made up of single groups come to be, by conflict or cooperation, does this create a strong society?
The following is an example of the layout for a newsletter. It is simply a suggestion and they can present their information any way they like.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**THE MIDDLE EAST**
Lands and People

**The Land**
By Tom Joe

The land of the Middle East …

**Picture:**

Coastline
Of the
Middle East

**Origins**

The Palestinians and Israelis have a long history in what we now know as …

**People**

Interesting Fact