



ISRAELQUEST: CHALLENGE ONE

YOUR FIRST ISRAELQUEST ADVENTURE



IsraelQuest: Challenge One Curriculum Guide and Activity Sheets

The State of Israel: Background Information

After the end of World War I in 1918, the **Ottoman Empire** conceded its rule over the territories now known as Israel and Jordan. In April 1920, **Britain** took over administration of the region. In **February 1947**, Britain announced it would end its Mandate government in the Middle East, leading the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) to recommend the establishment of two separate states in the region, one Jewish and one Arab.

On **November 29, 1947**, the UN General Assembly voted on the partition plan, which was adopted, with 33 votes in favor, 13 against, and 10 abstentions. The Jewish side accepted the **UN plan**, but the Arabs of the region rejected it.

On **May 14, 1948**, Israel proclaimed its independence. Less than 24 hours later, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq invaded the new State of Israel, launching Israel's **War of Independence**. The fighting continued for **15 months** and resulted in over **6,000 Israeli casualties**. During the early part of 1949, UN auspices facilitated negotiations between Israel and each of the invading countries (except Iraq, which refused to negotiate with Israel), and the fighting ended, leaving Israel with a sovereign state consisting mainly of the Coastal Plain, Galilee and the Negev region, and part of the city of Jerusalem.

Once the war was over, Israel focused on building the new State, the culmination of a long and difficult wait and struggle. Close to 85 percent of all eligible voters in the new country voted in the first election, and **David Ben-Gurion** became the first **Prime Minister**. **Chaim Weizmann** became the first president, and on May 11, 1949, Israel became the 59th member of the United Nations.

Israel established the "**Right of Return**" and opened its gates to every Jewish immigrant to become a citizen. Over the years, Jews from all over the world have returned to their homeland: "**On Eagles' Wings**" and "**Operation Magic Carpet**" brought Jews from Yemen, "**Operation Ezra and Nehemiah**" brought Iraqi Jews, "**Operation Moses**" and "**Operation Solomon**" brought Ethiopian Jews, and many others have also made **aliyah** over the years, with or without government assistance. By 1958, the population of Israel reached more than 2 million people.

As the years progressed, close ties were developed between Israel and the United States, British Commonwealth countries, most western European states, most of Latin America and Africa, and some countries in Asia.

In **1967** (Israel's population had grown by then to 2.7 million), Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq all joined together in a military pact, and the UN Emergency Force (UNEF) was expelled from the **Sinai Peninsula**. When Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Lebanon moved their forces toward the Israeli border, Israel called up its reserves, and launched a diplomatic campaign, hoping to win international support to end the Egyptian blockade of Israel.

The diplomatic efforts were unsuccessful, and the **Six Day War** began **June 5, 1967**, when Israel launched a pre-emptive strike on Egyptian forces. At the end of six days of fighting, Judea, Samaria, Gaza, the Sinai peninsula, and the Golan Heights were all under Israel's control, and Jerusalem, which had been divided under Israeli and Jordanian rule since 1949, was now fully in Israel's control.

The calm ended on Yom Kippur of 1973 (**October 6, 1973**), when Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack - the Egyptian Army invaded the **Suez Canal** while Syrian troops entered the **Golan Heights**. The **Yom Kippur War** raged for three weeks, until the **IDF** crossed the Suez Canal into Egypt into Syria within 20 miles of Damascus. Negotiations between Israel and Egypt and between Israel and Syria took two years, and resulted in disengagement agreements. Israel withdrew from parts of the land captured during the Yom Kippur War.

Throughout the decades since, there have been more conflicts and wars with Israel's neighboring countries, but Israel has managed to survive them all, grow, and thrive.

Israel is the world's only Jewish country, but the population of Israel includes others besides Jews: While the majority of Israeli citizens are Jewish, over 20% are Arabs (mostly Muslim, but also Christian), and there are also small numbers of Druze, Circassians, and others.

Israel is a **Democratic State** while being the **Jewish State**. The **Israeli flag** has two blue horizontal stripes and a blue **Star of David** between them, on a white background. The two stripes are reminiscent of a **Tallit**, and the Star of David has been a Jewish symbol since antiquity. The national anthem, **Hatikvah**, focuses on the everlasting Jewish hope for a return to our homeland over the millennia.

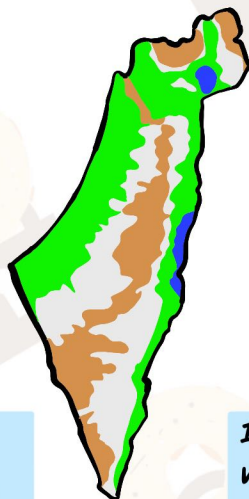
Hebrew and **Arabic** are Israel's two official languages. The State provides all services in both languages. Israel places a strong emphasis on science and technology, encouraging the establishment of centers of excellence and high performance. The percentage of Israelis engaging in scientific and technological research are among the highest in the world.

The history of scientific research in Israel is an integral part of the story of the return of the Jewish people to its homeland. **Theodor Herzl's** vision was of the physical home of the Jewish people, as well as a spiritual, cultural, and scientific center. Israel has excelled at agricultural R&D, medical research, industrial research (such as the **Dead Sea Laboratories**), and advanced technology.

As for **Israeli culture**, Israel's cultural scene reflects a wide range of influences in language, literature, the arts, media, and sports. Arts and culture in Israel are thriving, and are highly regarded around the world.

IsraelQuest

QUESTIONS



WHO'S WHO

IDENTIFY THESE FAMOUS PEOPLE:

1. HE WAS ISRAEL'S 1ST PRIME MINISTER
2. THIS ISRAELI SPY WAS CAUGHT AND KILLED IN SYRIA
3. SHE WAS ISRAEL'S 1ST FEMALE PRIME MINISTER
4. THIS ISRAELI GENERAL WORE AN EYE PATCH
5. HE WAS ISRAEL'S 1ST PRESIDENT

BATTLE TIME

IDENTIFY THE YEAR IN WHICH THESE WARS WERE FOUGHT:

1. THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE
2. THE YOM KIPPUR WAR
3. THE SIX DAY WAR
4. THE 1ST LEBANON WAR
5. THE 2ND LEBANON WAR

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

IDENTIFY THE FOLLOWING CITIES IN ISRAEL:

1. THIS IS THE CAPITAL CITY OF ISRAEL
2. THE BAHAI GARDENS ARE LOCATED IN THIS CITY
3. THIS IS THE SOUTHERNMOST CITY IN ISRAEL
4. THIS CITY IS KNOWN AS THE CITY OF KABBALAH
5. MAIMONIDES (RAMBAM) IS BURIED IN THIS CITY

ON THE MAP

IDENTIFY THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

1. MEIR DIZENGOFF WAS THE 1ST MAYOR OF THIS CITY
2. THE SEA OF GALILEE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THIS NAME
3. THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM IS DIVIDED INTO THESE 4 QUARTERS
4. YONI NETANYAHU WAS KILLED RESCUING HOSTAGES IN THIS CITY
5. THEODORE HERZL HELD THE 1ST ZIONIST CONGRESS IN THIS COUNTRY

WILD CARD

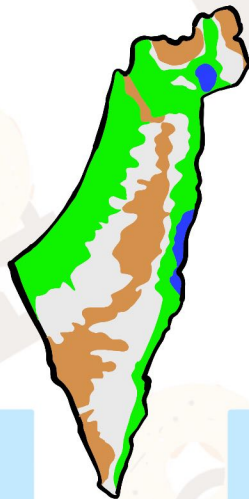
SOME MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

1. THIS IS THE NAME OF ISRAEL'S ANTHEM
2. THERE ARE THIS MANY SEATS IN THE KNESSET
3. ILAN RAMON IS KNOWN AS ISRAEL'S FIRST
4. THIS IS THE NUMBER TO CALL TO REACH THE POLICE IN ISRAEL
5. OPERATION MAGIC CARPET BROUGHT JEWS TO ISRAEL FROM THIS COUNTRY



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ANSWERS



WHO'S WHO

1. DAVID BEN-GURION
2. ELI COHEN
3. GOLDA MEIR
4. MOSHE DAYAN
5. CHAIM WEIZMANN

BATTLE TIME

1. 1948
2. 1973
3. 1967
4. 1982
5. 2006

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

1. YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM)
2. HAIFA
3. EILAT
4. TZFAT (SAFED)
5. TEVERYA (TIBERIAS)

ON THE MAP

1. TEL AVIV
2. KINNERET
3. ARMENIAN, CHRISTIAN, JEWISH, MUSLIM
4. ENTEBBE
5. SWITZERLAND

WILD CARD

1. HATIKVAH
2. 120
3. ASTRONAUT
4. 100
5. YEMEN



IsraelQuest: Challenge One is an escape room game that will take you on an adventure around the beautiful country!

Below you'll find background information about each location in the game:

Clue 1: Ben Gurion Airport (TLV)

Ben Gurion International Airport, formerly **Lod Airport**, was renamed in **1973** in honor of David Ben-Gurion (1886–1973), the first Israeli Prime Minister. In 2022, over 20 million passengers passed through the airport. The airport is located on the Coastal Plane, just 12 miles from Tel Aviv.

Clue 2: Dead Sea

The **Dead Sea** is in the **Judean Desert**. The Dead Sea is at the **lowest point on Earth**, and is one of the four saltiest bodies of water in the world. The unique mineral composition of the air, land, and water here is known for its therapeutic qualities, so the Dead Sea has been used as a health resort for thousands of years. Today, water enters the Dead Sea in very small amounts via the Jordan River, sulfur springs, extremely rare local rainfall, and flash floods, and the Dead Sea is shrinking. Visitors to the Dead Sea will find mud at the northern beaches, and interesting salt formations at the southern beaches. The water of the Dead Sea, with its high salinity and density, is very easy to float in.

Clue 3: Caesarea

The original **Phoenician settlement** here was conquered by Alexander Jannaeus and absorbed into the **Hasmonean Kingdom** in 90 B.C.E. Later it was "gifted" by the Roman Emperor, **Augustus Caesar**, to **Herod**, who established a major **port** at the site. Along with the port, Herod built up the city and named it after his benefactor, Augustus Caesar. The city was filled with **Roman** temples, elaborate public buildings, and more, including a Theater, Hippodrome, and Nymphaion.

In the year 66 C.E., events in Caesarea led to fighting between the Jews and the foreigners, and the Jewish rebellion began. **Rabbi Akiva** was among the **Jewish martyrs** killed in the city. During the **Bar Kochba rebellion**, the Caesarea port served as the primary supply for the Roman army.

Over the centuries, the city changed hands multiple times, until the **Mamluks** conquered and destroyed Caesarea and other coastal cities in the 13th century. Towards the end of the 19th century, a group of **German Templars** tried to settle here, and in **1882**, **Bosnian Muslims** re-established the settlement of Caesarea. The village was captured during the War of Independence, and has since been re-established as a Jewish city and major center for tourism.

Clue 4: Mt. Hermon

Mount Hermon ("Jabel El Sheich" in Arabic) in the **Golan Heights** is the northernmost point in Israel, as well as the **highest point** (about 2224 meters above sea level), and is the only skiing site in the country. Mount Hermon is strategically important to **Israel's security**, and much of the mountain houses military bases.

The Hermon Skiing Site is run by Neve Ativ, a Jewish settlement on the mountain, and has a vertical drop of 620 meters. Also on the mountain are Majdal Shams, a Druze town, and Ein Kinya, a Druze village. There are several lookout points on the mountain.

Clue 5: Jerusalem

Jerusalem was the capital of **King David's** dynasty over 3000 years ago, when it was home to prophets, priests, and kings, and today it is the **capital** of the modern State of Israel. Jerusalem of today is where the **Kotel** (the Western Wall) stands, reminding us of the past when the Jewish Temple stood. It is home to the **Knesset** (Israeli Parliament), the government of the modern State of Israel. Jerusalem is a place where diplomats, religious leaders, scientists, and market vendors mix and mingle in the streets.

Jerusalem is the largest and most diverse city in Israel, with a population of 951,100 in 2020. Jerusalem's Jewish population numbers 584,400 residents, and the Arab population numbers 366,800 residents, both the largest of any city in Israel. Jerusalem is a city that must be experienced to be understood.

Clue 6: Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv, founded in **1909** by Jewish pioneers, just outside the city of **Jaffa**, is now Israel's second largest city, with about 452,000 residents. It was the first city in British Mandatory Palestine to be wired to electricity, in 1923. Originally named "Ahuzat Bayit" (Homestead), it was later renamed after **Theodor Herzl's** book on Zionism, "Altneuland" (1902) — "Old New Land", which was translated into Hebrew as "Tel Aviv", a fusion of the old and the new.

Tel Aviv has become the modern commercial and cultural capital of Israel, while also keeping an eye on the past. It has many refurbished landmarks, such as Saron (a former German agricultural colony), Jaffa's first train station, Habima Theater complex, and countless Bauhaus-style buildings. Tel Aviv is the perfect place for a bicycle ride or a stroll along the **Mediterranean coastline**, and theaters, cafes, and pubs are always full.

Clue 7: Eilat

Eilat is Israel's **southernmost point**, a port city and resort spot at the northern tip of the **Red Sea**. This area was settled as early as the 7th century BCE, but the modern city of Eilat was founded in 1949.

The **Ramon Airport (ETM)** is 11 miles north of the city, and serves this sun-drenched vacation spot. It is named after **Ilan and Asaf Ramon**: the first Israeli astronaut who died in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster, and his son, who died six years later in a military flight training accident.

From Eilat's lookout points, you can see Egypt, Jordan, and even Saudi Arabia.

Clue 8: Negev

The Negev desert covers more than half the country of Israel. It is a rocky desert region, with dusty mountains and wadis criss-crossing them, and there are several large canyons: The Ramon Crater,

The Large Crater, The Small Crater, and the Mt. Arif Craters. Desert wildlife here includes snakes, lizards, scorpions, turtles, porcupines, and rodents. Beersheba, which dates back to Biblical times (Abraham famously dug wells there), is the largest city in the Negev with a population of about 209,000.

Dimona, Arad, and Mitzpe Ramon are newer, smaller towns in the Negev, and you will also find a number of small Bedouin cities, including Rahat, Tel as-Sabi, and Lakyah. This area is also home to several kibbutzim, including Kibbutz Sde Boker, which was the home of David Ben-Gurion after his retirement from politics.

Stargazing, hiking, and sandboarding are popular activities in the Negev, and many places offer camel rides for a historical throwback experience.

Clue 9: Kinneret

Lake Kinneret, the **Sea of Galilee**, is the **lowest freshwater lake** in the world. The city of Tiberias, with significant Jewish historical importance, is on the western shore of the lake. The southern shore of Lake Kinneret is the home of the first **kibbutz**, Kibbutz Deganya, founded in 1910, and Kvuzat Kinneret, which was founded in 1912. Other kibbutzim were established nearby soon afterward.

The Kinneret area is a popular destination for people from all over the world. They visit the region for so many reasons, including the hot springs, which have been actively used as a spa for 2000 years, as well as for religious journeys, water sports, and beaches.

Clue 10: Masada

The **Masada fortress** is at the top of a desert plateau that overlooks the **Dead Sea**. This was the base of a **Jewish rebellion** against the **Roman Empire** about 2000 years ago, recorded by the historian Josephus.

In 1838, explorers identified the historic site. Later, after visiting the site several times in the 1930s and 1940s, excavations began in 1959.

From 1963–1965, Israeli archaeologist and former military Chief-of-Staff, **Yigael Yadin**, led a team of researchers at Masada, and they uncovered many long-lost secrets. **Masada National Park** has been designated a **World Heritage Site**. Today you can access the fortress via cable car, or by hiking one of the paths: the **Snake Path** or the **Roman Ramp Path**.

You're Ready for the Next Step!

Now that you've got all the background information, you're ready to start your **IsraelQuest: Challenge One** adventure! This online game is available in 3 levels: Junior, Standard, and Pro.

You can choose how to play - [Solo Play for small groups in one location](#), [Group Play for small groups spread over multiple locations](#), or [Competition Play for larger groups or people with a competitive streak!](#) If you need help figuring out the best option for your needs, please contact us at studio@bagelsandlocks.com

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