

Israel Now and Then

Framing This Unit

The early Zionists, who arrived in Israel in the late 1800s, found a land neglected by its Ottoman rulers. Over the next century, villages, towns, and cities were built and the State of Israel was established. The new state faced many challenges, such as the need to defend itself against hostile neighbors and to absorb Jewish refugees from around the world. Despite these challenges, Israel developed into a modern, flourishing country that is known around the world as the “Start-Up Nation” due to its contributions to technology, medicine, and more.

Group Activity

1. [“Where am I?” game](#)
2. [“Then” and “Now” activity](#) – Compare cities in Israel by matching historical photographs to more recent ones on [Docsteach](#) with computers or using printed images.

Discussion

Based on the comparison between the historical and recent photographs, discuss the changes that have taken place in Israel over the last 150 years.

- What did you learn from looking at the photographs? What has changed?
- What surprised you?
- Did you recognize any of the locations?
- What does a country need in order to develop?
- What conditions might make it difficult for a country to develop?
- What resources did Israel have and what was it lacking from the end of the Ottoman Empire to the early decades of the State?
- How do you think Israel managed to develop, absorb large numbers of new immigrants, and become a leader in innovation over the years being examined?
- What type of progress do you anticipate for Israel over the next 50 years?

Creative Activity

Israel in 50 Years’ Time

Pick one of the cities from the earlier matching activity.

Create an image of how you think the city will look in 50 years’ time:

- What will the houses look like?
- What public buildings will there be?
- What will the transport system be like?
- What will the nature areas look like?

Planning a Driving Trip

Plan a driving trip to visit all of the cities from the matching activity.

Use [Google My Maps](#) to map your itinerary. Add photographs from the National Library to your map. (Click [here](#) for instructions for using Google My Maps or a [video](#) demonstrating its use in the classroom.)

Primary Sources in This Lesson



Tel Aviv Street, 1935



Tel Aviv, 1994



Kindergarten Children in Eilat, 1953



Hadassah Ein Kerem, 1960s



The Kotel, 1918



View of Zichron Ya'akov, 1941



Tiberias, 1930



The Kotel, 1960



Cold but not in Eilat, 1993



Map of Israel, 1950