

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

2010 Flotilla Newspaper Excerpts

Read excerpts A-K below, and answer the questions that follow.

- A. “A nine-ship flotilla of peace activists and humanitarian aid is steaming toward the blockaded Gaza Strip, and while Israel said it will intercept them, senior officials here said they fear a potential public-relations debacle.” (*Wall Street Journal*, May 27, 2010)
- B. “The vessels are carrying around 800 pro-Palestinian activists from various countries, as well as 10,000 tons of construction material, medical equipment and school supplies, according to organizers.” (*Wall Street Journal*, May 27, 2010)
- C. “Turkey withdrew its ambassador to Israel and called for an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council as criticism and condemnations arose across Europe and the Arab world Monday over Israel’s deadly commando raid on ships taking humanitarian aid to the blockaded Gaza Strip.” (*Associated Press*, May 31, 2010)
- D. “Israel says the activists attacked its commandos as they boarded the six ships taking tons of supplies to Gaza, while the flotilla’s organizers say the Israeli forces opened fire first.” (*Associated Press*, May 31, 2010)
- E. “The raid also brought heightened attention to Israel’s blockade of the Gaza Strip, imposed after the Palestinian militant group Hamas seized control of the tiny Mediterranean territory in 2007. The blockade — along with Israel’s fierce offensive against Gaza in the winter of 2008-2009 to stop Hamas rocket fire — has fueled anti-Israeli sentiment around the Arab world.” (*Associated Press*, May 31, 2010)
- F. “Now the Israelis are saying of course that *they* were attacked, but the protesters are saying, well, that it was a bit of a one-sided fight.... How fair a fight is this, that the Israelis are saying that they were attacked, but it’s far from certain what they were attacked with at the moment.” (*CNN Broadcast*, May 31, 2010)
- G. “The IDF released a video shot from above the ship that it said showed soldiers being attacked, though the distance from which it was shot precluded immediate confirmation.” (*CNN Wire Staff*, May 31, 2010)
- H. “I think the sharp international criticism is the result of the use of armed force against unarmed civilians who were engaging in a nonviolent peaceful resistance.” (*Voice of America* quoting former diplomat Phil Wilcox, June 1, 2010)

- I. “Video of the raid released by the Israeli military, Turkish television and other media sources depicted a dramatic high-seas brawl in which Israeli commandos rappelled from helicopters onto a ship and immediately clashed with activists on board.” (*Los Angeles Times*, June 1, 2010)
- J. “Israel admitted errors in planning the raid but justified the use of lethal force saying its marines came under attack from activists wielding knives and clubs. Activists deny this.” (*Reuters*, July 30, 2010)
- K. “Israeli naval commandos raided the Turkish passenger vessel, the *Mavi Marmara*, in international waters in May 2010. The boat, part of an international flotilla challenging Israel’s naval blockade of Gaza, was carrying pro-Palestinian activists. By Israel’s account, the Israeli soldiers met with violent resistance as they landed on the deck; nine passengers were fatally shot in the melee, eight of them Turks and one an American citizen of Turkish descent.” (*New York Times*, August 17, 2011)

1. Assume you know nothing about the May 2010 flotilla and *Mavi Marmara* incident except what you just read. Based only on excerpts A-K, how would you summarize what occurred?

2. Based on your knowledge of current events, how would you summarize what actually occurred?
