

ISRAEL'S STORY IN MAPS



Israel's Changing Borders

Modern Day Israel

Terror Maps

Threats & Topography

Comparisons

Click on the arrows to navigate from day to day

May 14

UN forces

Egyptian forces



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Events leading to the Six Day War, 1967

The Six Day War was the first major Arab attempt since 1948 to destroy Israel. In November 1966, an Egyptian-Syrian Defense Agreement was signed, encouraging the Syrians to escalate tensions, which reached a climax in the spring of 1967.

April: Syrians continue to shell Jewish communities in the north from their commanding position on the Golan Heights

May 14: Egypt mobilizes its forces in and around the Suez Canal.

1. What countries bordered Israel before June 4, 1967?
2. With which of those countries did Israel have a peace treaty or diplomatic relations?
3. Where is "Palestine" on this map?
4. Where are the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on this map?
5. According to this map, who do you think controlled Judea and Samaria? Who do you think controlled the Gaza Strip?
6. Find Samaria on the map. How wide (in miles) do you think Israel was at that point?
7. Where is the Sinai Peninsula on this map?
8. Why do you think U.N. forces were in the Sinai Peninsula?



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May 16

- UN forces
- Egyptian forces



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May 16: Egypt moves its forces eastward across the Sinai desert towards the Israeli border, demanding the withdrawal of UN Emergency Force (UNEF) stationed along the frontier.

1. Notice that most of the Egyptian forces moved directly to the border with Israel. One contingent didn't. Where did it go?
2. Why do you think the Egyptians sent forces in that direction?
3. What is the southern-most city in Israel according to this map?
4. What do you think the response of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) should have been to the Egyptian demand that it withdraw?

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May 19



Events leading to the Six Day War, 1967

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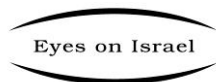
May 19: The Egyptians expelled the UN Emergency Force (UNEF) from the Gaza Strip and Sinai, and continued pouring its military forces into these areas.

Radio Cairo announces: "This is our chance Arabs, to deal Israel a mortal blow of annihilation, to blot out its entire presence in our holy land."

1. What country broadcast Radio Cairo?
2. What did Radio Cairo mean by "a mortal blow"?
3. What did Radio Cairo mean by "our holy land"? Why do you think it had used that phrase?

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◀ May 22 ▶

● Egyptian forces
— Egyptian blockade



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May 22: Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, constituting a casus belli for Israel.

Radio Cairo announces: "The Arab people is firmly resolved to wipe Israel off the map."

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1. Find the Straits of Tiran.
2. What is a "casus belli"?
3. Why would Egypt close the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping?
4. If you were an Israeli hearing Radio Cairo at this time, would you think the announcer was serious or just showing off?

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May 25 - June 4

● Egyptian forces
 — Egyptian blockade



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May 24-June 4: Answering the Egyptian call, the governments of Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Lebanon moved their forces toward the Israeli border. Israel mobilized its reserve forces, and launched a diplomatic campaign to win international support for ending the Egyptian blockade of Israeli shipping through the Strait of Tiran.

May 27 President Nasser of Egypt: "Our basic objective will be the destruction of Israel. The mining of Sharm el Sheikh...obligates us to be ready to embark on a general war with Israel."

1. What are reserve forces and why would Israel mobilize them?
2. What is a "diplomatic campaign" and why would Israel launch one?
3. Why would the Arab countries mentioned here move their forces to Israel's borders?
4. What role did Palestinian Arabs play in this run-up to war?

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■ Israeli territory before Six Day War

■ Under Israeli control after Six Day War



June 10, 1967: Israel After the Six Day War

Once it became clear that the diplomatic campaign had failed, and following Jordan's participation in the Egyptian-Syrian alliance, Israel launched action in self-defense against the massing threat from Egypt on June 5, 1967. Once Jordan and Syria initiated the fighting against Israel, the war also included those countries. In the course of the war, the Israeli forces reached the Suez Canal, and captured the territories of Judea and Samaria as well as the Golan Heights - from which the Syrians had shelled Israel.

1. According to the text here, which country fired the "first shot" on June 5?
2. Did Israel act preemptively against Egypt? Did Israel act aggressively? Do you think Israel should have waited for Egypt or another Arab country to fire the "first shot"?
3. Did Israel act preemptively against Jordan or Syria?
4. What areas came under Israeli control after the Six-Day War?
5. Why would Israel want to hold on to the Sinai?
6. Why would Israel want to hold on to Judea and Samaria (the West Bank)?
7. Why would Israel want to hold on to the Golan Heights?

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