

Israel's Story in Maps *Answers*

Slide 1

1. What countries bordered Israel before June 4, 1967?
Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.
2. With which of those countries did Israel have a peace treaty or diplomatic relations?
None.
3. Where is "Palestine" on this map?
It doesn't appear on this map because there never had been a country called Palestine. The geographic region comprised of Israel (including Judea and Samaria and the Golan Heights), the Gaza Strip and Jordan was given the designation "Palestine" by the victorious Allies after World War I. According to the San Remo Conference of 1920 (followed by the creation of the League of Nations), this region was designated as the Palestine Mandate, held and administered by the British and in which they were to facilitate re-establishment of the Jewish national home.
4. Where are the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on this map?
Gaza is the northeastern tip of Egypt, bordering Israel on the west. The area now known as the West Bank was then commonly called Judea and Samaria.
5. According to this map, who do you think controlled Judea and Samaria (the West Bank)?
Who do you think controlled the Gaza Strip?
Jordan occupied Judea and Samaria, renaming it the West Bank, and Egypt occupied the Gaza Strip.
6. Find Samaria on the map. How wide (in miles) do you think Israel was at that point?
Israel was 9 miles wide from the West Bank frontier to Netanya.
7. Where is the Sinai Peninsula on this map?
The Sinai Peninsula was part of Egypt, located southwest of Israel.
8. Why do you think U.N. forces were in the Sinai Peninsula?
The U.N. forces were put in place after the 1956 war between Egypt and Israel, France and Great Britain. They were meant to act as "buffers" to keep peace between Egypt and Israel.

Slide 2

1. Notice that most of the Egyptian forces moved directly to the border with Israel. One contingent did not. Where did it go?
South, towards Sharm el Sheikh.
2. Why do you think the Egyptians sent forces in that direction?
To get close to the Straits of Tiran.

3. What is the southern-most city in Israel according to this map?
Eilat.
4. What do you think the response of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) should have been to the Egyptian demand that it withdraw?
UNEF should have stood its ground and refused since its mission was to reduce tension between armed forces and keep war from taking place.

Slide 3

1. What country broadcast Radio Cairo?
Egypt. Cairo is Egypt's capital.
2. What did Radio Cairo mean by "a mortal blow"?
An attack that would kill or totally destroy someone or something.
3. What did Radio Cairo mean by "our holy land"? Why do you think it used that phrase?
By calling Israel "our holy land," Egyptian broadcasters hoped to ignite Muslim religious feelings against Israel. There is a Muslim belief that any land that had once been ruled by Muslims is "holy" and must always be controlled by Muslims, no matter what the cost or subsequent history.

Slide 4

1. Find the Straits of Tiran
At the southern tip of the Sinai.
2. What is a "casus belli"?
A Latin and legal phrase that means "cause for war."
3. Why would Egypt close the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping?
To keep Israel from getting oil or arms or any other goods it might need and to keep Israel from exporting whatever it could.
4. If you were an Israeli hearing Radio Cairo at this time, would you think the announcer was serious or speaking only for dramatic effect?
Answers will vary.

Slide 5

1. What are reserve forces and why would Israel mobilize them?
Instead of keeping a large standing army, Israel, because of its small size and population, had and still has to rely on an army mostly of regular citizens. They are trained but held "in reserve," waiting for action if and when they are needed. In 1967, Israel believed that the threat against the country was grave enough that it had to pull all available reservists away from their civilian jobs to help defend it.

2. What is a “diplomatic campaign” and why would Israel launch one?
It is an attempt to win the support of other nations without having to resort to war. Ambassadors and other diplomats are sent to different countries to convince them to help. Israel wanted to avoid war as much as possible and hoped that the help of other nations might convince the Arab leaders to stop their rush to war.
3. Why would the Arab countries mentioned here move their forces to Israel’s borders?
So as not to appear “soft” on the Jews and to take part in what they anticipated would be the destruction of Israel.
4. What role did Palestinian Arabs play in this run-up to war?
While Palestinian terrorist factions like those making up the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO, which was formed in 1964) had taken part in attacks on Israel before the spring 1967 build-up, there were no Palestinian Arab gunmen participating in the Arab mobilization.

Slide 6

1. According to the text here, which country fired the “first shot” on June 5?
Israel attacked first, destroying Egypt’s air force while it was still on the ground.
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”?
Israel acted preemptively, taking action before it could be harmed but not aggressively as it had been brought to this point by Arab armies massing on its border, the closing of the Straits of Tiran and the failure of its diplomatic campaign.
3. Did Israel act preemptively against Jordan or Syria?
Israel did not attack either country until itself came under attack from them. Note that Israel did not strike Lebanon as that country stayed out of the actual fighting.
4. What areas came under Israeli control after the Six-Day War?
The Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip (the latter formerly occupied by Egypt), the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem (formerly occupied and annexed by Jordan) and the Golan Heights from Syria.
5. Why would Israel want to hold on to the Sinai?
Israel already had been promised by the United States, after the 1956 Suez campaign, that any shipping through the Straits of Tiran would be protected, but the promise turned out to be false. Moreover, the largely empty peninsula between Israel and the heartland of Egypt could serve as a buffer to protect Israel’s interior. Finally, by having its troops on the eastern bank of the Suez Canal, Israel could project strength against Egypt at a vulnerable point.
6. Why would Israel want to hold on to Judea and Samaria (the West Bank)?
In certain places, Jordan and its troops had been less than a dozen miles from major population centers. Just west of Jerusalem city limits, Israel was only four miles wide from north to south. In the case of Jerusalem itself, Jordan occupied the eastern part of

the city. Under Jordanian rule, Jews were not allowed access to Jewish holy sites, including the Western Wall, not to mention the many Jewish religious institutions destroyed by the Jordanians. Sometimes snipers in eastern Jerusalem fired on Israelis on nearby streets located in the western part of the city.

7. Why would Israel want to hold on to the Golan Heights?

The Golan Heights was used by the Syrians to shell Israeli villages below throughout the 1960s and to attempt to divert Jordan River water from Israel.