

## 1967 Six-Day War Test *Answers*

1. What countries were preparing to attack Israel in spring 1967?

Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon were the frontline states preparing to attack Israel. Their forces were supplemented by troops from Iraq, Algeria, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

2. Who started the '67 War?

By April 1967 Syria had been shelling Israeli communities for years from its positions on the Golan Heights. In May 1967, acting on false information provided by the Soviet Union, Egypt began massing its troops on Israel's border with the Sinai Desert, after kicking out United Nations peacekeepers. It then closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli Red Sea shipping, a violation of a previous cease-fire agreement and a violation of international law. As Arab troops from other countries began to mass on the rest of Israel's borders, Israel acted preemptively and destroyed much of the Egyptian air force.

3. Why did Israel attack?

Israel was surrounded on all sides by hostile Arab armies that outnumbered it 2:1, with combat aircraft and tanks by 3:1. For a month Arab leaders had been vowing to destroy Israel. Israel's allies in Europe and the United States would not commit to its assistance. U.N. peacekeepers, who were supposed to police the Israel-Egypt border, left without opposition and the United Nations itself refused to take action. Israel believed that it was acting in self-defense.

Israel urged Jordan to stay out of the war but once King Hussein was told, erroneously, that Egypt was winning, he began shelling Israeli western Jerusalem. At around the same time, Syrian and Iraqi troops began attacking Israel's northern frontier.

4. Which territories did Israel acquire as a result of the war?

Israel gained the Sinai Peninsula, Judea and Samaria (the West Bank), eastern Jerusalem, including the Old City and the Golan Heights.