



REFUGEES

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Print/Copy: Guided Notes

Supplies: Note Cards

GOALS

- Understand the origins of the Palestinian refugee problem.
- Appreciate the complexity of the Palestinian refugee problem today.
- Learn about Jewish refugees from Arab countries after the 1948 War.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will compare between Palestinian refugees and other refugee groups.
- Students will talk about the factors that worsen the Palestinian refugee problem today.
- Students will tell the story of Jewish refugees from Arab countries.

INTRO (1 MINUTE)

The Palestinian refugee problem is one of the most controversial issues associated with the Arab-Israeli conflict today. It takes center stage in Israel's peace talks with the Palestinians, alongside the issues of borders, security and control over Jerusalem.

In this lesson we will learn how Palestinians became refugees, what is perpetuating their suffering, and what may be necessary to solve or at least alleviate their current predicament. We will also compare their story to that of other refugee groups in the world, and to the story of former Jewish refugees from the Middle East.



POST-FILM ACTIVITY

THE THINK TANK

(25 MINUTES)

GOAL

For the students to understand the complexity of the Palestinian refugee crisis.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Divide the class into three groups, and give each group the **Handout**. Explain to the students that the **Handout** lists three potential solutions to the Palestinian refugee crisis.
- 2 Assign each group one of the three solutions to debate.
- 3 Allow 10 minutes for group discussion, and then invite a representative from each team to explain why their proposed solution makes the most sense.
- 4 Assign three students—one from each group—to be student judges and pick the winner—the team with the most persuasive solution.

CLASS CONCLUSION

If we want to deepen our understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict today, it is helpful to look back at the 1948 war, understand how Palestinians became refugees, and realize what is perpetuating their suffering. As we learned today, the political reality is complex and there are several key players involved in this debate: Palestinian and Arab leadership, the State of Israel, the international community and UNRWA. Finding a solution to the problem is no simple task, but a good starting point is to have an open and candid conversation about past events and present realities.