

## 1967: DEEPENING THE DIVIDE

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Students will examine the history of the 1967 Arab-Israeli War.
- Students will analyze authorship, point of view and bias in Web pages.
- Students will reflect on and identify strategies for critical research using the Internet.

### VOCABULARY & CONCEPTS

1967 Arab-Israeli War	Judea and Samaria	Occupied Territories	Sinai Peninsula
The Gaza Strip	Knesset	Palestine Liberation Organization	UNEF
Golan Heights	Nasser	Straits of Tiran	West Bank

### MEDIUM

Handouts with excerpts from Web sites that cover the history of the Six Day War of 1967



### MATERIALS NEEDED

- *Student Handout* (pg.4-5) of Web pages (one per student or group)
- *Student Worksheet* (pg. 6) for analyzing excerpts from Web pages (one per student)
- *Teacher Answer Sheet* (pg. 7) and slides of Web pages (optional) for decoding

### TIME

30 minutes

### LESSON STEPS

1. Decide whether you prefer for this to be an individual or a small-group activity.
2. Present *Introduction to the Lesson* (pg. 2) to the class.
3. Distribute *Student Handout* of excerpts from the two Web pages and the *Student Worksheet* to each student or group of students. Give students time to write their answers.
4. Lead a decoding of the Web pages using the *Teacher Answer Sheet*.
5. Lead a discussion about critical decoding of Web pages using *Additional Information* (pg. 3).

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

Most high school and college students now use the Internet as their primary source of information for research projects. The Internet allows instant access to nearly countless sources, yet students often accept the information on Web sites at face value with little critical evaluation regarding authorship, credibility, accuracy and bias. In general, U.S. schools are not adequately preparing students for the Internet age. In 2000, for example, fewer than 10% of incoming college freshmen said they had had any formal training in judging the credibility of Internet sources (Scheibe, Ithaca College).

The documents you will analyze are excerpts from two Web pages about the history of the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, also known as the Six Day War. The first Web site was created by Esam Shashaa of the United Arab Emirates as “a site project dedicated to the current history of Palestine from 1900 and up to today.” In the “About the Editor” section of the Web site, Shashaa explains that his family roots “are more than 700 years old in Gaza City in (the) Gaza Strip. ” He goes on to explain that when Israel took control of the Gaza Strip following the 1967 War, his family lost their national identification papers. They have not been able to visit Gaza thereafter, since their visa requests have been rejected by the Israeli authorities ([Palestine – Home of History](#)).

The second Web site was created by the Department for Jewish Zionist Education of the Jewish Agency for Israel. The department director is Dr. Motti Friedman, and the Web site manager is Esther Carciente. On the Web site page dedicated to Department Vision, it explains that its “programs aim to link the best of the educational and cultural resources of Israel and the Jewish People to the needs of Jewish educators and communities” ([The Jewish Agency for Israel Department for Jewish Zionist Education](#)).

Here are some terms you will need to know as you view these sites:

**UNEF** is the United Nations Emergency Force of peacekeepers that the UN placed between the Egyptian and Israeli armies following the Sinai War of 1956 (Reich 389).

**The Straits of Tiran** are at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba, Israel’s water route to the Red Sea (National Geographic 23).

The **Knesset** is the Israeli Parliament.

**Judea and Samaria** is an Israeli reference to the West Bank, the historic Kingdom of Judah from which the Jews were exiled by the Babylonians.

As you view the excerpts from these Web sites, take note of the information offered as to reasons for war, how Israel won and effects for both Israelis and Palestinians. Secondly, consider bias. Take note of the point of view the author brings to the presentation. How does the perspective of the author influence what information is shared and not shared?

→ **Distribute** the *Student Handout* and *Student Worksheet*.

→ **Lead** decoding of both Web pages using the *Teacher Answer Sheet* as a guide.

## FURTHER QUESTIONS

In the first Web site how might Esam Shashaa's family history influence how he reports the outcome of the war for people in Gaza, the West Bank and the Golan Heights?

In the second site how might the Jewish Agency for Israel's intention to provide material specifically for Jewish educators influence how it reports the outcome of the war for Israel?

How can you determine the perspective of the author of a Web site? How can knowing an author's perspective help you to reflect on the bias that may be contained in information from that site?

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

While many students rely on the Internet for research projects, the majority of them have never learned how to examine the credibility of information found on Web sites. Because virtually anyone can publish anything on the Internet, it is especially important to be skeptical. Project Look Sharp's "Six Questions to Ask About Any Media Message" (see Unit 1, Lesson 1, Slide 23) are a useful tool for assessing Web resources. Here are some evaluation strategies specific to Web pages:

- Examine the URL (Uniform Resource Locator). The latter part of the domain name (e.g., .org, .gov, .com) can help you identify the sponsor of the site.
- Use a search engine (e.g., in AltaVista enter "link:" and the URL) to investigate which Web sites link to the site you are evaluating and what they have to say about it.
- If there is no contact information on the page, look up the domain registry to find out who owns the domain name. Try [www.networksolutions.com/en\\_US/whois/index.jhtml](http://www.networksolutions.com/en_US/whois/index.jhtml) for this search.
- Ask the following questions: Who is the author or sponsor? What are his or her credentials? Is the information presented accurate? Can you crosscheck it with a reliable source? Is the page designed to sway opinion? Is there any advertising on the page? Is the information current? When was the last update? Do the links function properly? Is there indication that the page is still under construction?

For more information about Internet credibility, visit the Project Look Sharp Web site.

## CONNECTIONS

Compare media coverage of the U.S. wars in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan using Project Look Sharp's Media Construction of War: A Critical Reading of History.

## REFERENCES

The Jewish Agency for Israel. Department for Jewish Zionist Education.  
<<http://www.jafi.org.il/education/index.html>>

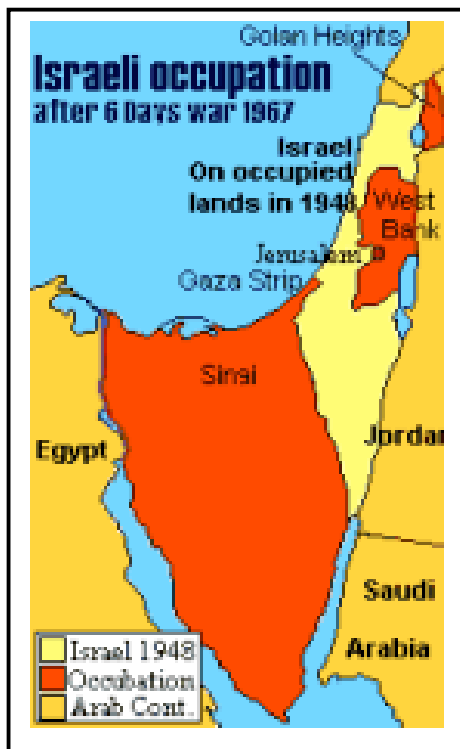
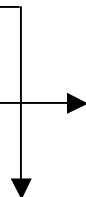
National Geographic, Atlas of the Middle East, Washington: National Geographic Society, 2003.

Reich, Bernard, and David Goldberg. The Political Dictionary of Israel. Lanham: Scarecrow Press, 2000.

Scheibe, Cyndy. Preliminary unpublished survey, Ithaca College. 2000.

Shashaa, Esam. Palestine - Home of History. <<http://www.palestinehistory.com/index.html>>

The text and map on this page comes from [www.palestinehistory.com](http://www.palestinehistory.com), a Web site created by Esam Shashaa.



### 1967 - The Six Days War

After the Suez-Sinai war Arab nationalism increased dramatically, as did demands for revenge led by Egypt's president Nasser. The formation of a united Arab military command that massed troops along the borders, together with Egypt's closing of the Straits of Tiran and Nasser's insistence in 1967 that the UNEF leave Egypt, led Israel to attack Egypt, Jordan, and Syria simultaneously on June 5 of that year.

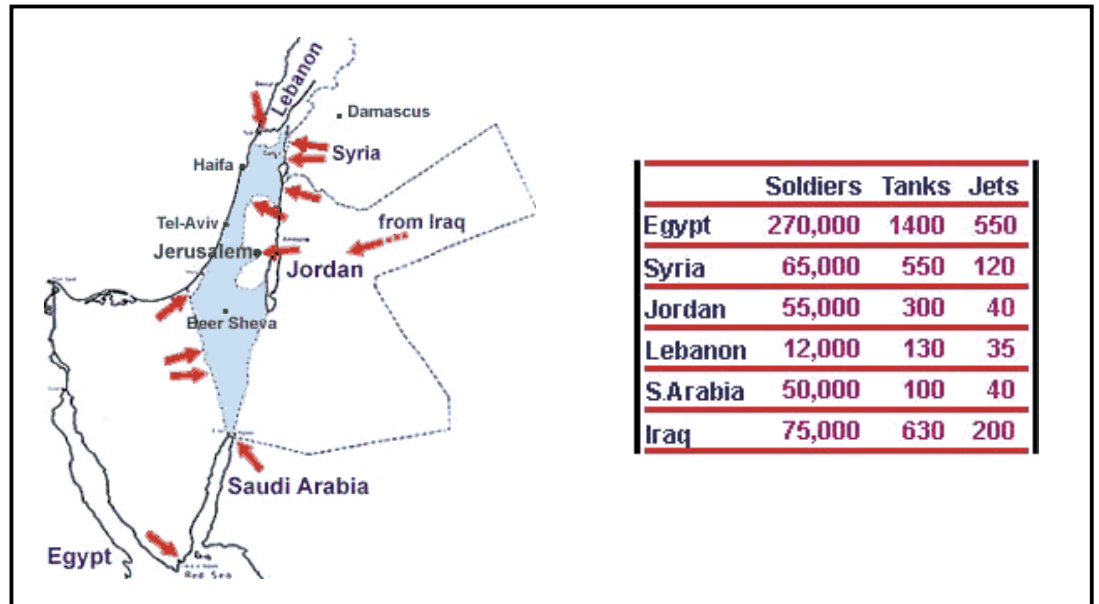
The war ended six days later with an Israeli victory. Israel's French-equipped air force wiped out the air power of its antagonists and was the chief instrument in the destruction of the Arab armies.

The Six Days War left Israel in possession of Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula, which it took from Egypt; Arab East Jerusalem and the West Bank, which it took from Jordan; and the Golan Heights, taken from Syria. Land under Israel's jurisdiction after the 1967 war was about four times the size of the area within its 1949 armistice frontiers. The occupied territories included an Arab population of about 1.5 million.

The occupied territories became a major political issue in Israel after 1967. The right and leaders of the country's orthodox religious parties opposed withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, which they considered part of Israel. In the Labor Alignment, opinion was divided; some Laborites favored outright annexation of the occupied territories, others favored withdrawal, and some advocated retaining only those areas vital to Israel's military security. Several smaller parties, including the Communists, also opposed annexation. The majority of Israelis, however, supported the annexation of East Jerusalem and its unification with the Jewish sectors of the city, and the Labor-led government formally united both parts of Jerusalem a few days after the 1967 war ended. In 1980 the Knesset passed another law, declaring Jerusalem "complete and united," Israel's eternal capital.

The 1967 war was followed by an upsurge of Palestinian Arab nationalism. Several guerrilla organizations within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) carried out guerrillas attacks on Israeli targets, with the stated objective of "redeeming Palestine." Guerrillas attacks on Israelis targets at home and abroad unified public opinion against recognition of and negotiation with the PLO, but the group nevertheless succeeded in gaining widespread international support, including UN recognition as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians."

The text and maps on this page come from [www.jafi.org/il](http://www.jafi.org/il), the Web site of the Jewish Agency for Israel's Department for Jewish Zionist Education.



### Position of Arab Forces - May 1967

During the early months of 1966, it became clear that Israel's neighbors were escalating activities against her. More and more Israeli civilians were killed in attacks coming from the Syrian and Jordanian borders. The Syrians, from atop the Golan Heights, shelled Israeli towns indiscriminately.

On May 15, 1967, Egyptian forces moved into the Sinai. On May 18, Egypt expelled the U.N. Peacekeeping forces from Israel's borders. On the 22nd, the Egyptians closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping. On the 25th, encouraged by Egypt - Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia moved their troops to Israel's borders.

Two days later, on the 26th of May, President Nasser of Egypt declared, "Our basic goal is the destruction of Israel. The Arab people want to fight.... The mining of Sharm El Sheik is a confrontation with Israel". Modelled after the November 1966 Egyptian-Syrian "defence" pact, other pacts were signed by Egypt with Jordan and Iraq on May 30th and June 4th, thereby completing the encirclement of Israel.

### The Six Day War - June 1967

With tensions mounting, the Straits of Tiran blocked, and Arab armies poised to strike, Israel decided (on June 5th 1967) to launch a pre-emptive attack on the massive Egyptian forces aimed at her. Within 190 minutes the backbone of the Egyptian airforce was broken, and by the end of the first day of war 298 Egyptian airplanes were destroyed. Backed by complete air superiority, Israeli army divisions then thrust into the Sinai desert approaching the bank of the Suez Canal. At the same time, Israel issued an appeal to Jordan to stay out of the war. (1) Jordan refused and opened a heavy artillery barrage on both west Jerusalem and the Tel-Aviv area which forced Israel to counterattack. By June 8th the Israel Defence Forces defeated the Jordanian forces and captured the whole of Judea and Samaria. On the morning of June 9th, Israel attacked the Syrians and captured the Golan Heights. From these heights, Syria had shelled and destroyed 205 houses, 175 acres of orchards and 75 acres of grain.

The six days of fierce [fighting] ended in Israel's occupation of the Sinai desert and the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and the West Bank, providing Israel's cities with a much needed buffer zone and dramatically reducing the danger of extinction by a surprise Arab attack. Furthermore, victory had a special religious meaning because of the unification of Jerusalem and the return of Jews to Judea and Samaria which was part of biblical Israel.

Within six days, Israel had captured the entire Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria, and the Golan Heights. This time, however, Israel did not withdraw to the 1949 armistice lines. International guarantees had proved meaningless in the past, and could not provide the security Israel's civilians needed to live their lives free of terrorist attacks. The cease-fire lines of 1967, shown on this map, remained Israel's borders until 1973. Terrorist raids from Egypt ended, and other raids, from Jordan and Syria, greatly diminished. Although Israel's security forces were able to prevent many of the terrorists' raids, the terrorists were able to keep secure bases in Jordan and Lebanon, eventually leading to internal conflicts in both countries.

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS**

Answer the questions below for each of the Web sites. Include specific evidence from the documents to back up your answers.

According to each of the Web sites...





palestinehistory.com



Jewish Agency for Israel Web site

<p>what was the cause of the 1967 War?</p>		
<p>why did Israel win so easily?</p>		
<p>what were the effects of Israel capturing the Arab lands?</p>		
<p>what is said about attacks on Israel following the war?</p>		
<p>what do the maps show?</p>		

<p>According to each of the web sites...</p>	 <p>palestinehistory.com</p>	 <p>Jewish Agency for Israel Web site</p>
<p>what was the cause of the 1967 War?</p>	<p><i>It suggests that Israel attacked Egypt, Jordan and Syria as a result of Arab troops massing on Israel's border, Nasser's desire for revenge and his closing of the Straits of Tiran and Nasser's demand that the UNEF leave Egypt.</i></p>	<p><i>It gives reasons as the deaths of Israeli civilians in attacks coming from Syria and Jordan, the movement of neighboring troops to Israel's borders, the closing of the Straits of Tiran, the signing of Arab "defense" pacts and Nasser's comment that "our basic goal is the destruction of Israel."</i></p>
<p>why did Israel win so easily?</p>	<p><i>It offers one sentence to the explanation that "Israel's French-equipped air force" destroyed the Arab armies.</i></p>	<p><i>It devotes a paragraph explaining Israel's "complete air superiority" in destroying the Egyptian air forces, Jordan's refusal to accept Israel's appeal and subsequent defeat by Israeli Defense Forces; and the attack on Syria following its attack on Israeli houses, orchards and fields.</i></p>
<p>what were the effects of Israel capturing the Arab lands?</p>	<p><i>It calls this area "the occupied territories" and notes that it includes an Arab population of 1.5 million. It focuses on the differences among political parties in Israel on the question of whether to annex or withdraw from the territories.</i></p>	<p><i>It notes the security provided to Israel by the "much needed buffer zone". It also mentions the "special religious meaning because of the unification of Jerusalem and the return of Jews to Judea and Samaria which was part of biblical Israel"</i></p>
<p>what is said about attacks on Israel following the war?</p>	<p><i>It refers to an "upsurge in Palestinian Arab nationalism." It references "guerilla attacks" by the PLO against Israel with the objective of 'redeeming Palestine.' It says that these attacks unified Israeli opposition to negotiating with the PLO, but that the PLO nevertheless gained international support as 'sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.'</i></p>	<p><i>It suggests that "terrorist raids" from outside Israel were "greatly diminished" by Israel's security forces. It says that the "terrorist bases" in Jordan and Lebanon led to conflicts in those countries.</i></p>
<p>what do the maps show?</p>	<p><i>It shows the large amount of land under what it labels "Israeli occupation" following the war.</i></p>	<p><i>It highlights the "threat" posed to Israel by the arrows pointing to Arab forces positioned against Israel before the war. The chart shows the large numbers of troops and military hardware available to the Arab countries threatening Israel.</i></p>