

Israel



Israel is a small Jewish country surrounded by Muslim neighbors. Since its creation in 1948, it has fought several wars against Arab nations who resented its presence in the region. Israel triumphed in each of these wars, and today it is an example of a thriving democratic nation.

Through hard work and determination, Israelis have turned their country into a showcase in the Middle East. Irrigation has made agriculture possible in areas that are otherwise dry. Industry is also important, with exports of such products as textiles, rubber tires, and processed diamonds.

Like people everywhere, Israelis recognize and celebrate a number of holy days and festivals. Hanukkah is observed for eight days during parts of the Jewish months of Kislev and Trivet. This corresponds to mid-December in the western calendar. The holiday celebrates the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem in 165 B.C.

Each night of the eight-day festival, a Jewish family lights a candle on a menorah, a nine-branched candelabrum, called a Hanukkiah. Because of the lighting of the candles, Hanukkah is also referred to as the Festival of Lights.



Project #1

Make a K-W-L Chart about your knowledge of Israel.

Materials

- poster board
- marker or felt-tipped pen
- yardstick

Directions

1. Use a yardstick to draw lines dividing a piece of poster board into three columns.
2. Print at the top of the first column K, at the top of the second W, and at the top of the third L.
3. Under the column labeled K, neatly print what you knew about Israel before starting the lesson.
4. Under the column labeled W, print what you wanted or expected to learn from studying about Israel.
5. Under the column labeled L, print what you actually learned from the lesson. Save this part and complete after Israel has been discussed in class.

