

The Middle East: Religious and Ethnic Conflict

1. What three religions claim Palestine/Israel as a holy land? (Underline those religions that are universalizing ones.)
2. What are the two main branches of Islam.
3. Which is the more numerous branch among Muslims as a whole?
4. In which three countries is the less numerous Muslim branch overall actually more numerous?
5. The Crusades were fought between which two religious groups during the 1100s and 1200s?
6. Which religious group was in control of the Holy Land at the end of the Crusades?
7. What empire controlled most of the Middle East except for a few years between 1516 and 1917?
8. Why did this empire lose control of the Middle East after 1917?
9. What European country took control of most of the Middle East in 1917? What did this country do with most of the territory in the Middle East?
10. Which religious group was allowed to migrate into Palestine during the 1920s, for the first time in 2,000 years?
11. What did the United Nations vote to do with Palestine in 1948?
12. After it became independent, a majority of the people in the newly created country of Israel belonged to which religion?
13. After Israel declared its independence in 1948, what did its neighbors do the next day?
14. Which three neighboring states fought wars with Israel in:
 - a. 1948:
 - b. 1956:
 - c. 1967:
 - d. 1973:
 - e. And who won each of these four wars?
15. After the 1967 war, Israel captured four pieces of territory from its three neighbors. Fill in the names of each the four pieces of territory, the country from which Israel won the territory, and who controls each of the territories today.

	Territory Name	From whom captured	Current control
a.			
b.			
c.			

d.			
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16. Name the four groups of people who now identify themselves as Palestinians.
17. What was the P.L.O.? Who was the leader of the P.L.O.?
18. The countries that rank among the world's leading petroleum producers are clustered around what body of water?
19. Which two countries fought a war in this area between 1980 and 1988? Why?
20. Which of these two countries did the United States support? Why?
21. What are the three main reasons for the Baath Party to promote Arab unity throughout the Middle East?
22. What Middle Eastern country supported Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War? Why?