

RECENT BOOKS AND VIDEOS ABOUT ISRAEL
2002 – 2005 Update
Available at the Ratner Media and Technology Center
Jewish Education Center of Cleveland

Many trade books about Israel for children and teens have been published in the last few years. Almost all are colored by the Arab-Israeli conflict, even when they purport to be objective or neutral. *For that reason, each book must be carefully evaluated by an informed adult before it is introduced to and used with students.* The two most reliable sources for published reviews are the *AJL Newsletter* and *Jewish Book World*. This list consists of materials that have been evaluated and recommended; it excludes titles that have been rejected because of bias, distortion, or outright lies. Therefore, it is not comprehensive but selective.

Curriculum

Book, Tuvia. *For the Sake of Zion: Pride and Strength Through Knowledge, An Educator's Guide*. New York: Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York, 2004.

Intended to “provide students with a sense of pride and understanding of modern Zionism and its achievements,” this is a set of teaching units and lists of teacher resources, including videos and websites. For high school.

Bram, Debbie and Melissa Bernstein. *Hope for Israel*. Cleveland, Ohio, JECC, 2005
A fifth grade curriculum written for Suburban Temple-Kol Ami.

Bram Debbi and Melissa Berstein. *Promise of Israel*. Cleveland, Ohio, JECC, 2005.
A tenth grade curriculum written for Suburban Temple-Kol Ami.

Chill, Abigail. *Teaching About the Middle East: A Resource Teacher's Guide*. Culver City, CA: Social Studies Service, 2003.

This eight unit curriculum for middle school and high school students includes a CD-ROM with Power Point presentations on several pertinent topics plus the text of the curriculum in Adobe Acrobat form.

Creating, Developing and Sustaining a Relationship with Israel. A project of the Reform Jewish Commission on Lifelong Learning. New York: Union for Reform Judaism, 2004.

A set of lessons about the relationship between American teens and Israel, designed to strengthen that relationship and to be used with confirmation classes.

IKAR: Israel Knowledge, Advocacy, and Responsibility: A Program for High School Students. New York: Solomon Schechter High School and the American Jewish Committee, 2003.

There are four parts to this program: an introductory lecture about the importance of American Jewish teens' engagement with Israel, a set of four workshops examining controversial issues, a sample one-month classroom unit, and a DVD with four video segments that accompany the written materials.

Israel, Steve. *Connecting To Community: Jewish Peoplehood, Belonging and Commitment*. Jerusalem: Jewish Agency Ministry of Education, 2003.

An experimental edition, intended to raise the awareness of high school students about contemporary Jewry, mutual commitment and the common destiny of the Jewish people.

Textbooks

Bickerton, Ian J. and Paula L. Klausner. *A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Updated Fourth Edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2005.

A college level textbook useful for teachers' background information. Also appropriate for advanced high school students.

Blumenthal, Scott E. *The Great Israel Scavenger Hunt*. Behrman House, 2003. 97pp. \$8.95. ISBN: 1874417112 Pbk.

Information about Israeli cities and important places, the diversity of the Israeli people, their social life and customs, Hebrew vocabulary, and the land's biblical ties is imparted interactively, through a breezy text and snappy format filled with cartoon-like illustrations, photographs, maps, and eye-catching details. A teaching guide is available. For grades 3 – 6.

Goulden, S. *Medinatenu*, 2nd Ed. The Israel History Book. United Synagogue Jewish Agency for Education, 2002.

Medinatenu is the "standard textbook for students studying for the curriculum and examinations for the United Synagogue and its Agency for Jewish education.

Passport to Israel: Teacher's Guide. Los Angeles, CA: Torah Aura, 2004.

This newly published teacher's guide is for a series of eight "instant lessons" published in previous years by Torah Aura. Each lesson takes students to a different region of Israel. For grades 3 – 5.

Non-Fiction Trade Books

Bard, Mitchell, Ed. *At Issue in History: The Founding of the State of Israel. Opposing Viewpoints Series*. Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven/Gale, 2003.

A judiciously chosen selection of essays supporting and opposing the founding of Israel. Important documents are included. For grade 10 – adult.

Bard, Mitchell, Ed. *Myths and Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Chevy Chase, MD: American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, 2002.

A compilation of articles that attempt to debunk the distortions and falsehoods perpetrated by Israel's enemies about the Israeli – Palestinian conflict. It is constantly updated on the Internet, at www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org. A shorter, pocket sized version aimed at helping college students counter anti-Israeli attacks on campus is called *On One Foot*, written by Bard and published by BE, Inc., in 2002.

Boaz, John, Editor. *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. At Issue/Opposing Viewpoints Series.* Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven/Gale, 2004.

Among the articles and essays taking different positions on the conflict, there are two on the security fence that Israel is building. For middle school and high school and not a first choice because it reflects a slightly pro-Palestinian point of view.

Boraas, Tracey. *Israel. Countries and Cultures Series.* Mankato, MN: Bridgestone/Capstone, 2002.

Factual and objective, this short book is divided into chapters beginning with a historical overview and continuing with information about the land, climate and wildlife, history and government, economy, and people, culture, and daily life. Each chapter starts with a boxed set of “fast facts” pertinent to its subject such as Israel’s latitude and longitude, area, highest and lowest elevations. Clearly drawn maps and text boxes plus photographs and other illustrations add visual interest and additional information. Appended material consists of pictures of the Israeli flag and coat of arms, a timeline, glossary, very brief bibliography, addresses and websites, and an index. The only misstep is the use of B.C. and A.D., instead of B.C.E. and C.E. For ages 8 – 11.

Broida, Marian. *The Ancient Israelites and Their Neighbors: An Activity Guide.* Chicago, IL: Chicago Review Press, 2003.

An informative and fun-to-read guide to the cultures of the ancient Israelites, Phoenicians, and Philistines. The period covered is the Iron Age, dated from 1200 BCE to 538 BCE, and shown in a detailed timeline. Presented in an informal, child-friendly style with two-color illustrations and maps, it draws on historical, biblical, and archaeological sources to sketch the origins, religions, and daily lives of the three peoples. Each of the three sections has chapters on history, architecture, clothing, language and writing, work, food, and religion, amply illustrated with photographs of artifacts from the culture. Each section also includes craft activities and recipes of varying degrees of complexity and consistently clear directions. A list of children’s books and websites relating to the three cultures is included, along with an extensive bibliography of scholarly sources and an index. For ages 10 – 14.

Carew-Miller, Anna. *The Palestinians. Modern Middle East Nations Series.* Philadelphia: Mason Crest, 2004. 127pp. ISBN: 1590845137.

Gives an impartial overview of Palestinian peoplehood, government, history, land, religion, economics, and foreign relations. The conflict between Palestinians and Israelis is treated fairly. There are a few errors, such as the claim that Palestinians are descended from the ancient Canaanites. A decent introduction for grades 6 – 8.

Claybourne, Anne. *Golda Meir. Leading Lives Series.* Chicago, IL: Heineman Library, 2003.

A short, complimentary biography covering Golda Meir’s life from birth to death, illustrated with many photographs. The attractive graphic design, short chapters, and appended reference aids, such as an index, make this a good choice for elementary and middle school students.

Corona, Laurel. *Israel. Modern Nations of the World.* San Diego, CA: Lucent Books, 2003.

A balanced overview of Israel, covering daily life, political issues, arts and culture, and much more. Sidebar stories on Ulpanim, Yad VaShem, the Mufti of Jerusalem, Hebrew Book Week, the Ethiopian airlift, among others, serve to add interest to the text. Unfortunately, the drab format will not lure readers. For ages 11 – 16.

Davis, Helen. *Israel in the World: Changing Lives through Innovation.* London, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 2005.

An overview of Israeli society and its technical developments in medicine, science and technology, agriculture, and outreach. Illustrated with many color photographs.

Diament, Carol, Editor. *Zionism: The Sequel.* New York: Hadassah, 1998. A collection of essays written since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, divided into two parts: Israel-Diaspora Debates and Clash of Ideologies. Each section begins with a thought-provoking essay by a noted scholar. There is also a Leader's Guide. For adults.

Dudley, William, Editor. *The Middle East. Opposing Viewpoints Series.* Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven/Gale, 2004.

Organized by four main topics that are central to an understanding of the Middle East, this is a compilation of pro and con viewpoints on issues such as Islam and democracy, oil dependence, Palestinian leadership, and Israel's security fence. Not every one of this publisher's books that pertain to Israel is acceptable and each should be evaluated before a decision is made to use it. For middle school and high school.

Ellis, Deborah. *Three Wishes: Palestinian And Israeli Children Speak.* Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2004.

The Canadian author of this book brings to it assumptions that will set off alarm bells. One is that the United Nations is an honest broker. Another is that the West Bank is occupied. A third is that refugee camps are an inevitable result of the conflict. Yet this flawed book, consisting of interviews with Israeli and Palestinian youth, gives a heart-wrenching picture of life during a terrorist war, expressed in what appear to be genuine voices. It requires discussion after reading and is a good choice for schools. Recommended with reservations for a wide audience, from grades 5 – 12.

Finkelstein, Norman. *Ariel Sharon.* Minneapolis, MN, Lerner, 2005.

An objective and unbiased account of the life of the current Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon. It is organized chronologically and deals with important events in the childhood, personal, military and political life of this controversial soldier and politician. There are two very poor books about Israel listed among the books and websites in the appended section of the book. Illustrated with maps and black and white photographs. The author's depiction of Arafat as genuinely wanting a peaceful resolution of the conflict gives the book limited value as a source of information and understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict. For grades 6-8.

Garfinkel, Adam. *Israel. Modern Middle East Nations and Their Place in the World Series*. Philadelphia, PA: Mason Crest, 2004.

Notable for its accuracy and lack of bias, this is an authoritative account of Israel from its beginning to the modern state. The land, people, and history are introduced and the emphasis is on Israel's place in the world today, with issues of security and conflict at the forefront. Maps, photographs, a glossary, an index, a list of websites and books for further reading accompany the text. An excellent choice for grades 7-12.

Goldstein, Margaret. *Israel In Pictures, Revised Edition. Visual Geography Series*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2004.

Keyed to Lerner's *Visual Geography Series* website, www.vgsbooks.com, which substantially expands the information in the book, this is geared to the informational needs of elementary and middle school students. Extensively revised from the previous edition published in 1987, which it replaces, this is highly recommended for every library, Jewish and non-Jewish. For grades 5 – 8.

Greenfeld, Howard. *A Promise Fulfilled: Theodor Herzl, Chaim Weizmann, David Ben-Gurion, and The Creation of the State of Israel*. New York: HarperCollins/Greenwillow, 2005.

A succinct and well-written history of modern Zionism, told through the biographies of three of its most important figures. The backgrounds, influences, achievements, strengths, and weaknesses of each man are skillfully woven into the historical chronicle. The section on Herzl is particularly strong in portraying the contradictions in his personality that contributed to the Zionist cause.

The Israel Project's Guide to Proven Pro-Israel Communications. Arlington, VA: The Israel Project, 2005.

A guide, based on market research, about how to present a pro-Israel position to the media and in speaking to groups about the Arab-Israeli conflict. The advice is to keep the message positive and to emphasize the common values between the U.S. and Israel, rather than historical facts. For college students and adults.

Katz, Samuel M. *Global Counterstrike: International Counterterrorism*. Minneapolis, MN, Lerner, 2005.

Describes the history and working of various modern counterterrorist organizations in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and South America. Israel figures prominently in the discussion. For middle school.

Kort, Michael G. *The Handbook of The Middle East*. Brookfield, CT: 21st Century/Millbrook, 2002.

This excellent and timely book contains factual information about the history, geography, government, politics, economics, people, and cultures of 16 countries. Maps, flags, and chronology included. For high school and adults.

Luntz, Frank I. *America 2020: How the Next Generation Views Israel*. New York, The Israel Project, n.d.

A report based on interviews with 150 randomly selected students under age thirty attending the top graduate schools in America. The key conclusion is: "Never in the modern history of the Jewish State has there been more outspoken public opposition on ELITE college campuses to the basic principles and tenets of Israel. To be brutally frank, if the current attitudes are not reversed, America's core commitment to - and alliance with - Israel may not survive." For adults.

McNeese, Tim. *Masada: Sieges That Changed the World*. New York: Chelsea House, 2003.

The story of the Jewish Zealots at Masada choosing mass suicide rather than death or slavery at the hands of the Romans is a familiar one. This volume, which presents history without the heavy emotional tone common to writing on this subject, is written much like a brief textbook, and includes endnotes, a bibliography, and an excellent index. For ages 13 – 17.

Ojeda, Auriana, Ed. *The Middle East. Current Controversies Series*. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale/Greenhaven, 2003.

Twenty eight essays providing pros and cons on topics such as Islamic terrorism, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and pan-Arabism. Contributors include Daniel Pipes, Edward Said, and Yasser Arafat. For grades 10 – adult.

Rifa'i, Amal and Odelia Ausbinder with Sylke Tempel. *We Just Want to Live Here: a Palestinian Teenager, an Israeli Teenager – an Unlikely Friendship*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2003.

Tempel is a German journalist who facilitated this exchange of letters between two teenagers living in Jerusalem. Although they share hopes for peace and happy futures, their worldviews and circumstances are quite different. The Palestinian girl speaks the "party line" and was not allowed by her family to use her real name, for fear of reprisals. The Israeli girl is outspoken in her criticism of the Sharon government and aspects of Israeli society. As voices from opposing sides of the intractable conflict, they present a balanced view of it. Excellent for discussion. For grades 7 – 12.

Rouss, Sylvia A. *Reach For The Stars: A Little Torah's Journey*. New York: Pitspopany, 2004.

A poignant true story of the little Torah rescued from the Holocaust that Israeli astronaut, Ilan Ramon, took with him on the space shuttle, Columbia. Although it is about a tragic event, Rouss' account emphasizes optimism, hope, and courage. For grades 2 – 5.

Sherman, Josepha. *Your Travel Guide to Ancient Israel*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2004. 96pp. \$26.00. ISBN 0-8225-3072-4.

Sherman's book takes readers on a journey back in time in order to experience life in ancient Israel at the time of King Solomon. It describes clothing, accommodations, foods, local customs, transportation, a few notable personalities, and more. Also included are: Activities & Timeline, Glossary, Pronunciation Guide, Further Reading & Websites, Bibliography, and Index. For grades 6 – 8.

Sonneborn, Liz. **Murder At the 1972 Olympics in Munich.** New York: Rosen, 2003.

This is one of the few books by this publisher about Israel to be recommended. Sonneborn gives us an informative and highly readable account of the murder of eleven Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics by a group of Palestinian terrorists. This is an episode in history little-known by today's youth, but the author does a good job of providing context for the event. A glossary, a pathfinder to more information, a source bibliography and suggested reading list, and an index extend the book's reach. For ages 11-16.

Speregen, Devra N. ***Ilan Ramon, Jewish Star.*** Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2004.

A biography with photographs that focuses on Ilan Ramon's years of training as an astronaut and on life aboard a space shuttle. Grades 5 – 8.

Stavicek, Louise Chipley. ***Israel. Creation of the Modern Middle East Series.*** New York: Chelsea House, 2003. 126p. \$30.95. ISBN: 0791065111.

An objective account of the birth and growth of modern Israel, with good research aids. Most books about Israel published by Chelsea House are not recommended because of their anti-Israeli bias. For grades 7 – 10.

Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Ilan Ramon: Israel's First Astronaut.*** Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 2003.

A readable and poignant biography, integrating information about Ilan Ramon's life and career with facts about astronauts and space shuttles. Although brief, Stone's book imparts a sense of Ramon's appealing personality, his leadership qualities, and his status as an Israeli hero. Illustrated with photographs. For Gr. 4 – 7.

Webster, Matt. ***Inside Israel's Mossad: The Institute for Intelligence and Special Tasks. Inside the World's Most Famous Intelligence Agencies.*** New York: Rosen, 2003.

This book is a brief but informative account of the Mossad, Israel's formidable foreign intelligence agency initiated by Ben-Gurion in 1951. As the author explains, for the tiny Jewish state of Israel, beset by numerous external enemies, a superior intelligence agency was essential. This overview is an objective account describing the organization's structure and goals and some of the successes and the failures of the Mossad's highly trained operatives. Included are photographs, an index, bibliography, and rather insignificant glossary. Recommended for ages 11 – 13.

Woodward, John, editor. ***Israel: Opposing Viewpoints.*** Farmington Hill, MI: Gale/Greenhaven, 2005.

A collection of pro and con articles about Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Fiction Trade Books

Allon, Hagit and Lena Zehavi. ***The Mystery Of The Dead Sea Scrolls.*** Illus. by Yossi Abulafia. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2004.

Told as a mystery story, this fascinating and smartly illustrated book provides interesting information about the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Judean desert where they were found, the Shrine of the Book where they are housed in Jerusalem, and a glimpse at the everyday life of a modern Israeli family. For grades 3 – 6.

Groner, Judy. *Let's Visit Israel* Illus. By Cheryl Nathan. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004.

A very simply written, clearly illustrated board book that introduces some of the major sites in Israel to preschoolers. Jerusalem, a kibbutz, Masada, the Dead Sea, and Eilat are some of the places visited by a little boy who serves as a guide.

Grossman, David. *Duel*. Translated from the Hebrew by Betsy Rosenberg. New York: Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2004.

Loyalty, love, and honor are the themes of this multi-layered mystery and coming-of-age story. The friendship between twelve year old David, a clever and introspective Israeli boy, and some elderly German-Jewish residents of a Jerusalem retirement home is the catalyst for a story that weaves between the past and the present. Grades 4 - 6.

Kaplan, Kathy Walden. *The Dog of Knots*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdman's, 2004.

An absorbing and off-beat story set in Haifa around the time of the Yom Kippur War. A nine year old girl and an old, stray dog are the main characters, exemplifying the fortitude that is part of everyday life in Israel. Grades 5 – 8.

Kass, Pnina Moed. *Real Time*. New York: Clarion, 2004.

Set in Israel, this teenage novel is told in many voices: a German boy on his way to work on a kibbutz; a Russian immigrant girl reclaiming her Jewish heritage; an elderly Holocaust survivor; an aspiring Palestinian "martyr" and his family; emergency medical staff, doctors, nurses, and the police. Their lives all intersect in one violent moment, revealing the reality of a suicide bombing from many different perspectives. Winner of a Sydney Taylor Book Award and excellent for discussion. An audio CD is available that contains an interview and readings by the author. Grades 8 – 11.

Lehman-Wilzig, Tami. *Keeping The Promise: A Little Torah's Journey*. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004.

A fictionalized account of Ilan Ramon and the Torah he took with him on the space shuttle. The focus is on Rabbi Jacob Dasberg, who took the Torah with him when he was deported to Bergen Belsen and on the Bar Mitzvah of the boy who later gave the Torah to Colonel Ramon. Grades 3 – 6.

Miklowitz, Gloria. *The Enemy Has a Face*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003.

A suspense novel set in Los Angeles, this involves the disappearance of the teenage son of an Israeli family. Issues regarding relationships between Jews and Arabs are interwoven with a fast paced plot, teenaged characters, and contemporary references that will engross middle school readers.

Morgan, Anna. *Daughters of The Ark*. Toronto, Second Story, 2005. ISBN 1-896764-92-4. Pbk.

An adventure story about two girls, separated in time by thousands of years, who are forced to leave their homes on perilous journeys to unknown lands. In 939 BCE Aleesha and her family are sent by caravan from Jerusalem to the court of the Queen of Sheba in Ethiopia. Almost three thousand years later, a Beta Israel girl flees religious persecution and famine to return to Israel, her ancestral home. For grades 6 – 8.

Roseman, Kenneth. *Jeremiah's Promise: An Adventure in Modern Israel*. New York, UAHC Press, 2002, 187pp. ISBN 0807407879 Pbk.

Do-It-Yourself Jewish Adventure Series. A teenage Holocaust survivor is convinced by an Israeli secret agent to emigrate to Palestine. His travels through Israel tell the story of the Jewish state as readers make choices regarding career, family, residence and identity as a Jew. For grades 6 – 8.

Rouss, Sylvia. *Sammy Spider's First Trip to Israel*. Illus. by Katherine Janus Kahn. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2002. 32p. \$7.95. ISBN: 1580130356 Pbk.

The latest Sammy Spider adventure finds Sammy using his five senses to experience Israel. The illustrations are charming and by traveling around the country with Sammy and the Shapiro family, young children get a wonderful introduction to Israel in all its variety. For Kindergarten – grade 3.

Rouss, Sylvia A. *Sammy Spider's Israel Fun Book*. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004. A companion to *Sammy Spider's First Trip to Israel*, with coloring pages, games, and other activities for young children. Kindergarten – Grade 3.

Rouss, Sylvia. *Tali's Jerusalem Scrapbook*. Illus. by Nancy Oppenheimer. New York: Pitspopy, 2003. 27p. \$9.95. ISBN: 1930143699 Pbk.

Tali is a little girl who lives in Jerusalem. When her American relatives decide not to make their annual visit because of “the situation,” Tali reflects on life in Jerusalem. The mementoes and photographs in her scrapbook remind her of what she loves about her city, about how Arabs and Jews used to be able to live together like different flavors of ice cream, and about her hopes for peace. A touching story that captures an Israeli child's feelings. For grades 2 – 4.

Sandell, Lisa Ann. *The Weight of the Sky*. New York: Viking, 2006. \$16.95. ISBN 0-670-06028-3 Pbk.

Written in free verse that reads like prose, this sensitive growing up story is told by Sarah, who spends the summer of her sixteenth year working as a volunteer on a kibbutz. Independent for the first time in her life, Sarah gains confidence in herself and the ability to make her own choices. Living as a Jew among Jews, including young people close to her own age, she is transformed by her Israel experiences. The vibrancy of life in contemporary Israel is shown, with only a few references to the Palestinian conflict. For grades 7 – 11.

Stein, Tammar. *Light Years*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005.

A young Israeli woman studying in the United States narrates the story of why she fled Israel. Alternating chapters portray Maya's college experiences in Virginia and her life in Israel as a soldier whose life is shattered when her boyfriend is killed in a suicide bombing. Written with sensitivity and insight, this is excellent reading for older teens and young adults.

Podwal, Mark. *Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses, and Crescents*. New York: Doubleday, 2005. \$15.95. ISBN: 0-385-74689-X.

A lyrically written, beautifully illustrated celebration of the sky above Jerusalem and its sacredness to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. The tone is of conciliation and hope. For grades 3 – 5.

Zenatti, Valerie. *When I Was a Soldier*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2005.

The author has written a memoir of her last year of high school in Beersheva and her experiences in the Israeli army. Her cynical point of view becomes monotonous and very little understanding of herself or other is revealed. This insider's view of what service in the IDF is like is essentially incomplete and disappointing. Translated from the French. High school – young adult.

Videos

Ancient Israel and Jerusalem. Chicago, IL. New Dimension Media, n.d. VHS, 25 minutes. *Great Cities of the Ancient World Series*.

Computer animated reconstructions show the history of Jerusalem, including King Solomon expanding the city captured by King David and building the temple; the city being destroyed by the Babylonians; and later, being rebuilt by Herod the Great. Middle school – high school.

Arab and Jew: Return to the Promised Land. PBS Home Video, 2002, 60 minutes.

Combining new material with interviews of some of the same Israelis and Palestinians that appeared in David Shipler's original award-winning 1988 documentary, *Arab and Jew: Wounded Spirits in a Promised Land*, it illustrates both unchanging views and an evolution of attitudes by Israelis and Palestinians before and after the Oslo peace process. High school - adult

Behind the Hatred: Mortal Enemies Discovery Channel/Cambridge Education, 2002, 47 minutes.

An assessment of the Arab- Israeli conflict as seen through the lives and experiences of Ariel Sharon and Yasser Arafat. High school - adult.

Families of Israel. Master Communication, 2001, 30 minutes. Suitable for primary and elementary grades.

This live-action video follows two Israeli children and their families through an ordinary day. Inbar lives on a kibbutz in the Negev and Yoad lives in Jerusalem. Grades 2-4.

The First Israeli in Space: The Story of Colonel Ilan Ramon, Israel's First Astronaut. Israel Broadcasting Authority, 2003, 60 minutes.

A poignant biography of the Israeli astronaut who perished aboard the Columbia space shuttle. Elementary and up.

Gaza (Israel & Palestine) Journeys to Heaven and Hell. Chip Taylor Communications, 2002, 25 minutes.

A British journalist goes to Gaza looking for answers to why the Palestinian leadership cannot control Hamas and to understand what propels even greater numbers of Palestinians toward suicide. High school – adult.

Israel: Small Country, Big Ideas. The Library Project of Stand With Us, www.learnisrael.org, 2005, CD ROM.

This PowerPoint presentation effectively highlights Israel's many achievements in science and technology. It can be used in conjunction with the book *Israel in the World* by Helen Davis but also stands by itself as an informative and positive way of explaining modern Israel's contributions to the world to teens and adult audiences. Stand With Us and learnisrael.org are organizations that advocate for Israel and distribute positive materials about Israel to libraries.

Israel and Palestine: A Divided Land. Madison, WI, Knowledge Unlimited, 2004, VHS, 41 minutes.

Using archival footage and interviews with Jews and Arabs, this film traces the history of both groups in the region from ancient times to 1967. The issues are presented simply, giving viewers an idea of the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict. There is a study guide to accompany the film. Middle school – high school.

James' Journey to Jerusalem. Zeitgeist Films, 2004, DVD, 87 minutes, color, English, Hebrew, and Zulu with English subtitles.

An Israeli film that follows the adventures of James, a devout Christian making a pilgrimage from his African village to the Holy Land. He becomes part of the migrant labor force in Tel Aviv and pursues his religious quest until he gets a little taste of fortune. An astute exploration of the economic, moral and spiritual hypocrisies of Western society filtered through a portrait of modern Israel's culture and generational divisions. High school – adult.

Kingdom of David: The Saga of the Israelites. Pts 1 & 2. Oregon Public Broadcasting, 2003, 220 minutes.

A somewhat dry presentation of the history of the Jewish people from the time of David. Middle school – high school.

Promises. The Promise Film Project, 2001, 102 minutes.

An intensely personal and insightful look at the Palestinian-Israeli conflict from the vantage point of seven children living in Jerusalem. While the children live just 20

minutes apart, they exist in completely separate worlds, divided by physical, historical and emotional boundaries. Middle school – high school.

Relentless: The Struggle for Peace in Israel. HonestReporting, 2003, 60 minutes.

An important documentary about events in the Middle East and the ongoing struggle. ***Obsession*** a new documentary by HonestReporting is due to be released late fall. High school – adult.

Time of Favor. Kino, 2002, DVD, 101 minutes, color, Hebrew with English subtitles.

Winner of six Israeli Academy Awards, this is a complex story of a soldier, a controversial West Bank settlement rabbi and the rabbi's daughter. It raises issues of religious faith and duty to one's nation. High school – adult.

The Wonder of Israel. Kidsnet, 1997, 20 min., color, with poster map and teacher's guide.

Road runner orientation to the Jewish State that covers many subjects: geography, landscapes, climate, cities, political Zionism, culture, school, economy, government and peace process- seemingly a mile a minute. Clipped narration, stunning videography and pulsating music add to the rapid paced albeit surface quality of this production. Ends before Barak. Available through the Israeli Embassy in Washington at no cost.

Websites

www.eyeonisrael.com. Maps of Israel.

www.babaganewz.com/virtual. Virtual tour of Israel, games, facts, information.

www.mfa.gov.il. Israel story in maps, facts about Israel.

www.jerusalem.muni.il/timeline. Timeline of Israel, facts.

www.archpark.org.il. Jerusalem Archaeological Park.

www.inisrael.com/holyland/tour. Virtual tour of The Temple.

www.learnisrael.org. Learn Israel

www.memri.org. The Middle East Research Institute

www.theisraelproject.org. The Israel Project

www.camera.org. Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America

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