



OBJECTIVES

Student groups will:

- ▶ Identify the causes of the continuing conflict in Israel.
- ▶ Brainstorm a list of changes in attitudes, policy, boundaries, etc. that could lead to peace.
- ▶ Develop five non-traditional solutions to the crisis and present each in an innovative manner.

WEEK 1: In small groups, research and compile detailed answers to the following questions. Use at least three recent articles from USA TODAY, as well as information from other sources. 1) What 20th-century events led to the present crisis in Israel? Why do both Palestinians and Israelis believe they have a claim to the land? 2) Why is the conflict still continuing? 3) What progress toward peace has been made? 4) How has the U.S.'s role in the Israeli crisis changed since 1948? Through discussion and informal quizzes, make sure all members of your group have a thorough understanding of the information you gathered.

WEEK 2: Last week, you gathered information about the history of the conflict in Israel. This week, your group will use your research to address a more complex question. Turn a piece of paper on its side and write the following statement across it: *In order to stop the violence in the Middle East, the following changes are needed:* Underneath the statement, make four columns with these headings: Attitude Changes; Policy Changes; Geographic/Physical Changes; Other Changes. As a group, brainstorm a list of changes that might lead to peace and write them in the appropriate column. Record all ideas, even unusual ones.

WEEK 3: You have examined the changes that could lead to peace in Israel; now it's time to develop some specific solutions. Obviously, many traditional approaches have failed to work. Your challenge is to devise five **non-traditional** solutions to the crisis – one for each of the following parties to implement: 1.) Israeli/Palestinian leaders 2.) Israeli/ Palestinian citizens 3.) Israeli/Palestinian young people (under 18) 4.) U.S. leaders 5.) an individual. In short, identify an innovative action that each party can undertake to promote peace.

WEEK 4: You have developed five creative solutions to the Middle East conflict. Your next goal is to present each one to your class in an appropriate and captivating manner. In other words, if your solution is to inundate the country via radio broadcasts with songs about peace, then your presentation should be musical. If your solution deals with boundary changes, present it using maps that resemble abstract paintings. After creating your five brief presentations, rehearse each until it is near-perfect. (Use note cards! Don't ramble!) Make sure every member of your group is equally involved in the final performances.