

UNIT SIX - What is a Jew? (Religion or Nation?)



LESSON PLAN 8 Legal and Moral Rights of Nations

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Students will investigate the legal and moral rights of nations, focusing on the Jewish people's right to sovereignty in the Land of Israel.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Copies of the Balfour Declaration, UN Resolution 181

Handouts with excerpts from international law on self-determination ([sources 20-22](#))

Video: [How The State Of Israel Was Born](#)

ACTIVITIES:

1) Introduction (5 minutes):

Briefly introduce the concepts of legal and moral rights of nations.

Write "Sovereignty" and "Self-Determination" on the board.

Write key questions on the whiteboard: "What rights are granted to nations?" and "Who grants these rights?"

2) Reading and Analysis (15 minutes):

Distribute copies of the Balfour Declaration and UN Resolution 181.

In small groups, students will read and discuss the documents, focusing on the support for Jewish sovereignty.

Jigsaw: Each group becomes an expert on a specific document and then teaches their peers about their findings.

3) Class Discussion (10 minutes):

Groups present their findings.

Discuss the role of international bodies (e.g., the UN) and historical documents (e.g., Balfour Declaration, UN Resolution 181) in granting national rights.

4) Case Study: Israel (10 minutes):

Examine the recognition of Israel as a nation.

Discuss Zionist arguments for Jewish national rights in the context of these historical documents.

Role-Playing: Students assume roles of different historical figures or entities (e.g., UN representatives, Zionist leaders) and debate the recognition of Israel.

5) Conclusion (5 minutes):

Summarize the key points from the discussion.

Reflect on the implications of national rights for the Jewish people and Zionism.

6) Assessments:

Imagine you are a UN representative in 1947. Argue for or against the recognition of the Jewish state based on the legal and moral rights discussed in the lesson. Use historical documents and international law to support your position.

How does the Balfour Declaration support the Jewish people's right to sovereignty in the Land of Israel? Provide specific excerpts to support your answer.

What role did the United Nations play in the establishment of Israel as a nation through UN Resolution 181? What was the significance of this resolution?

Further Learning: UED videos and educational resources

1. [What is the Balfour Declaration?](#)
2. [WWI and the Balfour Declaration](#)
3. [Resolution 181 and the Partition Plan](#)