



Essential Questions/Big Ideas

What IS Zionism?

Zionism sparks much debate, but at its core, it's simply the belief that Jews have the right to govern themselves in their ancestral homeland. From ancient prayers to modern-day Israel, Zionism has been a cornerstone of Jewish identity for centuries. But with a Jewish state firmly established, is it still relevant?

[Link to video](#) (optional for campers to view, but very helpful for facilitator before the lesson)

- Campers will be able to better express their perspective on Zionism.
- Campers will have a clear definition of Zionism and be familiar with key aspects of its history and diversity.

Materials:

 **Zionism Scenarios**

 **Six different types of Zionist thought** (for instructor reference)

 **Zionism Gallery Walk Posters.pdf**

- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- markers

Lesson

Divide Campers into 3-4 groups.

Hook:

Optional: Play this clip from [the video \[1:18-2:15\]](#)

When did Zionism start?

Ask campers when they think Zionism began.

It has biblical roots (e.g. when Abraham moved to the Land of Israel and began the Jewish nation) as well as modern iterations (rise of nationalism, Theodor Herzl's political Zionist movement of the late 19th century).

Why is it important to understand the ancient historical and religious connection of Jews to the Land of Israel?

There's no one way to be a Zionist

How could the concept of Zionism have had such different approaches?

Give campers the  Zionism Scenarios cards and have them place the scenarios under the  Zionism Gallery Walk Posters.pdf they believe to be.

Reflection:

Some people believe that the State of Israel was founded in 1948 in response to the Holocaust. Others point to the deep historical roots of Zionism and the fact that the Nazis murdered so many of the Jewish people who would have participated in the building of a Jewish state as reasons why Israel was created **despite**, not **because of** the Holocaust.

Would the State of Israel exist without the Holocaust?

How do these different narratives about the creation of Israel influence the way we view things today?

Which Zionist ideology spoke to you the most? Why?

Which ideology do you think people find the most relevant today?

When Israel is making important decisions today (e.g. security decisions, hostage exchanges, international negotiations), which types of Zionist ideology (e.g. revisionist, religious, political...) are most important to include in the conversation? Why?