

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Zionism – Unpacked Jr.

Learning Goals

Affective

- Students will develop an emotional connection to Israel and the Zionist story.
- Students will internalize the relevance, diversity, and necessity of Zionism.
- Students will see themselves in the Zionist dream.

Behavioral

- Students will actively participate in activities that celebrate Israel's history.
- Students will show pride identifying as Zionists and part of Israel's story.

Cognitive

- Students will identify major figures in the history of Israel and Zionism.
- Students will analyze different perspectives and ideologies within Zionism.
- Students will recognize Zionism as the movement that returned the Jewish people to Israel, their historic homeland, after 2,000 years.

Essential Questions

1. What does being a Zionist mean to me?
2. Is there only one way to be a Zionist?
3. How has Zionism changed over time, and what does it mean today?

Big Ideas

1. Zionism embraces diverse perspectives, unified by the commitment to create a thriving Jewish state in Israel.
2. There are many ways to be a Zionist and contribute to Israel's development.
3. Zionism continues to evolve, shaping Jewish identity and Israel.

Learning Plan

Hook (5 minutes)

Ask your students:

If you could create a special place for all Jewish people...

- *What would it look like?*
- *What values would it have?*
- *What would make it special?*

Let your students write down their responses or share some aloud.

Then frame the class as an exploration of how different Zionist thinkers imagined their ideal Jewish homeland and how those visions shaped Israel today.

Learning Activities (30 minutes)

1. Watch the video (10 minutes):

Objective: Introduce students to the concept of Zionism and various Zionist thinkers.

Materials:

- Unpacked Junior video  Mount Herzl: If You Will It, It Is No Dream
- [Viewer guide](#)

Procedure:

- Play the [animated video on Zionism](#) for the class in its entirety.
- Students should fill out [this guide](#) while/immediately after watching the video.

2. Facilitate a class discussion using one of the following questions (5 minutes):

- How did different Zionist leaders dream the Jewish state could be?
- Why do you think there are so many different ways of being a Zionist?
- How can people express their Zionism from inside and outside of Israel?
- How do you think Zionism has changed from Herzl's time to today?

3. Four Corners (15 minutes)

Objective: Students will explore different aspects of Zionism through movement, discussion, and critical thinking.

- Materials:
 - [Activity PDF](#)
 - Tape, sticky tack, or adhesive to attach papers to walls.

Procedure:

- Choose one of the three prompts and print the corresponding 4 pages from the [Activity PDF](#). Post a sheet in each corner of the room.
- Explain the "4 corners" activity to students. You will present a prompt for the class to consider. Options are posted at each corner of the room. Students will choose a corner based on which statement they agree with most. They will gather in the corner of the room that corresponds to their choice. In each corner, students form groups of two or three to discuss the reasons for selecting a particular choice. Someone from each group will then volunteer to present a group summary of their discussions.
- Present one of following prompts to the class for them to consider:
 - Which explanation of Zionism do you like best? Why?
 - Which kind of Zionism do you connect to most? Why?
 - Which quote do you like best? Why?
- Reflection: Which aspect of Zionism (definition, type, or quote) did you connect with most? Why?

Reflection (5 minutes)

Choose one question for students to write down a reflection on their thoughts:

- What does being a Zionist mean to me personally?
- How has my understanding of Zionism changed after this lesson?
- Which Zionist leader or idea did I like best and why?
- In what ways do I see myself connecting to Zionism in the future?

Checking for Understanding

Play our [Kahoot quiz on Zionism](#) (5 minutes)

Take Home Activities

Family learning with podcasts

Personalize [this email template](#) and send it home to families, letting them know what you learned in class, and encouraging them to engage with our video and podcast at home.

1. Carpool podcast listening

Send home the accompanying Unpacked Junior podcast episode, [Zionism: Dreaming Big](#), for families to play in the car ride to and from school this week.

2. Dinner table discussion

After listening to the podcast, ask families to have a dinner table discussion, having everyone at the table take turns answering the following questions:

- Why do you think it's important for Jewish people to have a home in Israel?
- How might we show that we care about Israel?
- What are some fun ways we could learn more about Israel as a family?

3. Interview a Family Member about Zionism

Purpose: To connect your child's learning with your family's personal experiences and perspectives on Zionism.

Instructions:

- Help your child choose a family member to interview.
- Assist them in setting up a recording method (voice notes app, Zoom, or taking written notes).
- Encourage your child to prepare questions. Some suggestions:
 - What does Zionism mean to you?
 - Why are you a Zionist?
 - Who's a Zionist leader you look up to?
 - What moments in history most formed your connection to Israel?
 - What does Israel mean to you in the modern world?
 - What do you love most about Israel?
 - What's your dream for Israel's future?
 - What does having a homeland in Israel mean to you?
- Have your child conduct the interview and record the responses.
- After the interview, discuss what they learned and how it relates to what

they've been studying in class.

Teacher Feedback for Unpacked Jr.

Did you use this lesson plan with your students?

Please take a few minutes to let us know what worked well, what could be improved, and your overall thoughts on the content with our [short feedback survey](#).