

RESOURCE 26

High-level negotiation

What would a peace deal look like?

In a group of four, take one of the big issues (A–E) Palestinian and Israeli leaders argue about. Discuss what you think would be a fair and realistic agreement. Prepare a five-minute role-play in which the two sides present their opposing views, then reach your agreement.

“You don’t make peace with friends. You make it with very unsavoury enemies.”

Yitzhak Rabin, former Israeli prime minister

| Issue | Israeli government | Palestinian Authority |
|---|--|---|
| A Status of Jerusalem | Jerusalem is central to Jewishness and the Zionist dream. The whole of Jerusalem is our capital. | East Jerusalem is our capital and home to many Palestinians. The Old City and holy sites like the al-Aqsa Mosque are central to us. |
| B Occupation | As a small country, Israel needs to be able to defend itself from invasion or Palestinian terrorism. Palestinians need to end terrorist violence – that’s why we need a military presence. | The military occupation of Palestinian territory should end. Palestine should be able to defend itself like any other country. UN Resolution 242 says the occupation should end. |
| C Israeli settlements | Settlements are legal and part of Israel, which has a growing population. Settlers will not want to leave their homes. | The settlements on the West Bank are illegal under international law and take away good Palestinian land. They should be removed. |
| D Borders of Palestine and Israel | We can only settle final borders through direct negotiation. | The state of Palestine can consist of the West Bank and Gaza based on the pre-1967 borders. The UN should help decide. |
| E Palestinian refugees | If millions of Palestinians came to Israel, it would destroy the country. There’s not enough room! | All Palestinian refugees from 1948 and their descendants should have the right to return to their home according to international law. Israel should compensate the families who don’t come back because it caused the problem. |



Your agreement: