



Educator's Guide

Golda Meir: Iron Lady of the Middle East

This video talks about the remarkable and also complicated legacy of Golda Meir. Israel's only female premier was beloved by her nation but had her reputation tarnished to an extent with the outcomes of the Yom Kippur War. In this episode and through this educator's guide, students will explore and reflect upon Golda Meir's life, her successes and her failures. Students will be asked to consider what truly makes someone a hero. Is it someone infallible? Students will also think through Golda Meir's early life in which she made sacrifices for her Zionism, making the decision to immigrate to Israel from the U.S.

Video: <https://unpacked.education/video/golda-meir-iron-lady-of-the-middle-east/>

Further Reading

1. Daniel Gordis, *Israel, A Concise History*; Chapter 14: The Yom Kippur War--The "Conception" Crashes
2. Yehuda Avner, *The Prime Ministers*
3. Francine Klagsbrun, *Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel*
4. Ervin Birnbaum, "The Most Fateful Conference of All Times in Jewish History, Part II," <http://www.acpr.org.il/nativ/0902-birnbaum-E2.pdf>
5. Center for Israel Education, "Israeli 'Black Panthers' Meet with Prime Minister Meir to Discuss Mizrahi Jews," <https://israeled.org/israeli-black-panthers/>
6. Primary source - Agranat Commission
<https://israeled.org/resources/documents/agranat-yom-kippur-war/>



Review - Did the students understand the material?

1. What was the Evian conference, and why did it have such an impact on Golda?
2. What about the 1973 Yom Kippur (or Ramadan/October) War made determining the victor ambiguous?
3. What was the name of the commission that determined that some Israeli leaders did not do enough to prevent the casualties of the war?
 - a. Agranat commission (correct answer)
 - b. Kahan commission
 - c. UN Resolution 181
 - d. Dayan commission
4. What was the name of the Mizrahi group who was bothered by Prime Minister Meir?
 - a. Mizrahi mayhem
 - b. Black Panthers (correct answer)
 - c. Shas
 - d. Sonei (haters of) Meir
5. Which city did Meir live in when she lived in America?
 - a. New York
 - b. LA
 - c. Baltimore
 - d. Milwaukee (correct answer)

Discussion Questions

1. We saw Golda Meir leaving behind her comfortable life in America for a difficult one in the pre-state of Israel. Why would Golda leave behind the familiar for the unknown and foreign?
2. How would history look different if Golda Meir and Israel did not merely have observer status at the Evian Conference, but were active participants?
3. In what way was Golda Meir's African project such an important part of her expression of Zionism?



4. When the [Agranat Commission](#) cleared Golda Meir of wrongdoing, she still resigned after it was released. Do you admire her for this or disagree with her decision?
5. What do you think Golda Meir could have done differently for the Mizrahi community, if anything, and why?

Reflection Questions

1. If you were given an hour to sit down with Golda Meir, what are three questions you would ask her?
2. Is it possible for you to have deep reverence for a leader while acknowledging their imperfections, or do you expect your leaders to be mostly infallible?
3. Which of Golda Meir's values do you personally admire the most, and why?