

THE SINAI CAMPAIGN



Section 1: Additional resources

- Daniel Gordis, *A Concise History of a Nation Reborn*, chapter 10
- Yotam Berger, "How Israel Gave Up the Idea of Annexing Sinai and Gaza" <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-how-israel-gave-up-the-idea-of-annexing-sinai-and-gaza-1.5468782>
- Matt Plen, "The Sinai Campaign: Israel's First Military Offensive" <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-sinai-campaign/>
- <https://mfa.gov.il/mfa/aboutisrael/history/pages/the%20sinai%20campaign%20-%201956.aspx>

Section 2: Discussion Questions

- Why do you think this is Israel's least-known war?
- David Ben-Gurion, Shimon Peres and Moshe Dayan had to decide whether or not to agree to a secret plan devised by the French and British. What factors do you think they considered when making this decision?
- David Ben-Gurion made the decision not to annex the Sinai Peninsula, though he probably could have. U.S. president Eisenhower was not supportive of this idea. The U.S. and France and Britain did not want to risk their relationship with the Arab world by encouraging Israel's conquest. Ben-Gurion let the matter drop - why do you think he did so?

Section 3: Review - Did the students understand the material?

1. What were the most important outcomes of the Sinai Campaign?
 - a. Ariel Sharon (correct answer)
 - b. Yitzhak Rabin
 - c. Menachem Begin
 - d. Benjamin Netanyahu
2. What role did Britain, France and the U.S. play in these events?
3. In what year did the Sinai Campaign take place?
 - a. 1948
 - b. 1950
 - c. 1956 (correct answer)
 - d. 1967
4. Which future Israeli prime minister was a key player in the Sinai Campaign?
 - a. Gamal Abdel Nasser (correct answer)
 - b. Anwar Sadat
 - c. Hosni Mubarak
 - d. King Pharaoh
5. Who was the Egyptian leader who advocated for Pan-Arabism at the time?

Section 4: Reflection Questions

- Did you know about the Sinai Campaign before watching this video? If not, did it change your view of Israel in any way? How? If yes, what new insight do you have into the event, if any?
- What do you think Israel's Jews felt about this campaign at the time? Many of them were Holocaust survivors whose families had been murdered. Egyptian president Nasser was a Holocaust denier. What do you think it meant to these people to defeat him?
- Imagine what Arabs of the Middle East were experiencing in the 1950's, shortly after Israel's victories and establishment. Could you explain why Pan-Arabism caught hold? Why would one identify with the movement, even over one's own country?