

HISTORY OF ISRAEL EXPLAINED

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



YAMIT: EXCHANGING LAND FOR PEACE

Section 1: Additional resources

- Daniel Gordis, Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn, chapter 15
- Itamar Rabinovich, "Bold Decisions: Three Israeli Prime Ministers Who Went Against Their Grain"
<http://www.itamarrabinovich.tau.ac.il/publications/127-bold-decisions-three-israeli-prime-ministers-who-went-against-their-grain.html>
- Yitzhak Shargil, "Behind the Headlines: The Fate of Yamit"
<https://www.jta.org/1978/09/27/archive/behind-the-headlines-the-fate-of-yamit>
- Danny Rubenstein, "Menachem Begin's Choice"
<https://www.haaretz.com/1.4682702>

Section 2: Discussion Questions

- Israel's government encouraged Israelis to settle in Sinai after its capture and subsequently commanded them to withdraw from their new homes and communities. Are the sacrifice and pain they experienced worth the peace?
- How is the evacuation from Gush Katif/Gaza different from and similar to the one from Yamit? to the religious Jewish life, he taught all Jews to have pride and the willingness to say, "I am a Jew." What about Zionism allowed Jews to feel proud about their heritage?
- Some extremists vowed to kill themselves rather than be evacuated but ultimately did not follow through with this. Why do you think they vowed this in the first place, and why do you think they did not act upon it?

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

1. Who signed the Camp David Accords, and what were its outcomes?
2. Why did Yamit residents fight so hard to avoid relinquishing Yamit?
3. Why did Israel choose to demolish the Sinai structures it had built rather than leave them standing?
4. When did Israel capture the Sinai desert?
 - a. 1948
 - b. 1963
 - c. 1967 (correct)
 - d. 1973
 - e.
5. Where was Yamit located?
 - a. Gaza
 - b. West Bank
 - c. Sinai (correct)
 - d. Golan Heights

Section 4: Reflection Questions

- The Israelis who had settled in Sinai first left their homes to build new ones, and then left those for new ones again when ordered to do so. What do you think they were feeling each time, both when they began to settle in Sinai and when they left it?
- When the Israeli government gave the order to leave Sinai, and Yamit residents held fast to their homes, it was up to Israeli soldiers to remove them. What do you think this experience was like for the soldiers, who were following orders to remove Jews from their land? Does a soldier have an obligation to follow orders at all costs, even if s/he believes they are wrong?
- A major value in this whole episode is sacrifice--by the Israeli government, people and military. Who in your life has had to sacrifice in order to achieve a greater need?