

Peace and Security

Chapter Summary: Yael, the daughter of a colonel in the Israeli Defense Force, narrates the history of Israel's conflicts with its neighbors and with the Palestinians. Yael expresses her hope for peace and security.

Page 110 • My Hebrew Dictionary:

Tz'va Haganah Leyisrael milu'im

Israeli Defense Forces military reserve duty

Page 112 • Make a Care Package: Students are asked to "draw the things they would want to send to a soldier who was far from home, protecting Israel," to label each item, and to explain why they would send those items. (sweaters, magazines, books, stationary, snacks, holiday items)

Page 114 • Living Jewish Values: The students are asked to explain in their own words the mitzvah of freeing Jewish captives. (freeing Jewish captives means helping Jews who are oppressed, for example, helping Jews in Russia and other countries to emigrate to Israel or the United States)

Page 115 • What Do You Think?: Students are asked, "Do you think Israeli soldiers should be held to a higher ethical standard than other soldiers? Why or why not?" (yes, because Judaism holds people to a high moral standard and the Israeli army should observe the laws of Judaism; no, because the high standards might put them at a disadvantage in battle)

- The caption under the map of Israel in 1956 asks students to locate the Gulf of Eilat and the Strait of Tiran. (Gulf of Eilat is located at the tip of Eilat in the southernmost portion of Israel)
- Page 117 Students are asked, "Why do you think people sometimes compare Israel to David [in his battle against Goliath]?" (because Israel is small compared to the neighboring countries it has battled)
- **Page 118** The caption under the map of Israel after the Yom Kippur War asks which desert area was given back to Egypt in the 1979 peace treaty. (the Sinai Desert)
- Page 120 The caption under the map of Israel and her northern neighbors asks students to locate Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. (Beirut is located in the northernmost portion of the map)
- Page 121 What Do You Think?: Students are asked whether or not Israeli citizens should be permitted to protest military decisions. It also asks if Jews living outside of Israel should have a say in Israel's military decisions. (Israelis should be able to protest military decisions because Israel is a democracy; Israelis should not be able to protest because protest will weaken the army; Jews outside Israel should be able to protest but their opinions should not count; their opinions should count because Jews outside Israel help Israel)
- Page 125 Postcard for Peace: On the front of the postcard, students draw a picture of what they imagine Israel will look like when there is peace with all its neighbors.
 - Students share their thoughts about Israel's struggle for peace and their hopes for its future on the back of the postcard. (answers will vary, but should express a hope for peace and security in Israel)

Enrichment

After your students complete the art activity on page 112, call on students to tell the class what items they chose for the care package and why. Then, your class can actually make and send the care package. Send a letter home asking parents to give their child one of the items to bring to class. Have the students write letters to include in the package; those who want to can read their letters aloud to the class. To obtain the name and address of an IDF unit to which you can send the package, call the Friends of the IDF at (212) 575-5030.

Write an E-Mail

What is your life in America like? Write an e-mail to me describing your school and the things you do for fun. Name three things in Israel that are similar to our lives and three that are very different. If you could send one picture of yourself to kids in Israel, what would it be? Draw the picture in the e-mail.

Write a Note for the Kotel

The Western Wall is a place where we can touch our past, because it is a supporting wall from the Temple where our ancestors worshipped. Many people insert notes into the cracks between the stones of the Western Wall. On the notes people write prayers of gratitude for our past and hope for our future. Write a note that expresses your prayers for the future of the Jewish people.

