

# 8

# Peace

## *and Security*

Shalom! My name is Yael. I'm Liat's next-door neighbor. My father is a colonel in the Israeli Defense Forces. I am proud of him because he works to keep Israel safe and secure. But I worry that he may be hurt if there is a terrorist attack or if there is another war. I hope that such things never happen again, not here or in any other country.

Come, let me tell you about the Israeli Defense Forces and Israel's relationship with the Arab nations since the State of Israel was established. In the past there have been many wars, but we hope that some day soon there will be shalom.

Yael

Yael's father

## Serving in the Israeli Armed Forces

For nearly 2,000 years, the Jewish people had no army of its own. Then, the *Haganah* was created to protect the Jewish settlers of Palestine. The *Haganah*, or Defense, was small and poorly armed, but it was able to win the War of Independence in 1948. Today, Israel's army is known as **Tz'va Haganah Leyisrael**, the Israeli Defense Forces—*Tzahal*, or IDF for short.

In many countries, citizens may choose to join the armed forces. In Israel, most Israeli teens are drafted into the armed forces at age 18. Boys serve for 3 years, while girls serve for 20 months.

The IDF is made up of several different corps, including the army, navy, and air force. There are many highly specialized jobs to be filled in the IDF. A soldier might drive a tank, parachute from a plane, train other soldiers to use sophisticated electronic equipment, fly a helicopter, navigate a submarine, or serve in the military police. There are also computer programmers, medics, teachers, translators, rabbis, cooks, and photographers in the IDF.

Israeli teens also get the right to vote when they are 18.



Members of the *Haganah* defending Jewish settlements in 1947



## IDF to the Rescue

The IDF not only defends Israel, it also helps people from other countries. For example, in 1999, when Turkey suffered an earthquake that killed and injured thousands of people, the IDF sent a 200-member team and a field hospital to help in the rescue effort. Two Turkish families were so grateful that one named its newborn son Israel and the other named its newborn daughter Ziona.



Dr. Dan Engelhard treating a newborn baby in a refugee camp in Kosovo. Dr. Engelhard was part of the IDF medical rescue mission to the war-torn Balkans during the spring of 1999.

*This makes me feel so proud of Israel.*



## The Reserves

After completing their required military service, Israeli men and women join the reserves, or *milu'im*. They leave their jobs and their families for about four weeks each year to train and practice their military skills, because reservists can be called into service in the event of a war. Women with no children serve in the reserves until age 34. Men serve until age 55.

After the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed by terrorists in 1998, the Israeli Defense Forces sent 150 soldiers, doctors, and rescue specialists to help the victims. In response, U.S. congressman Charles Rangel said, "The Israeli people played an extraordinary role in the search and rescue efforts....The American people are very grateful for such generous and unselfish assistance."

צָבָא הַגָּנָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל

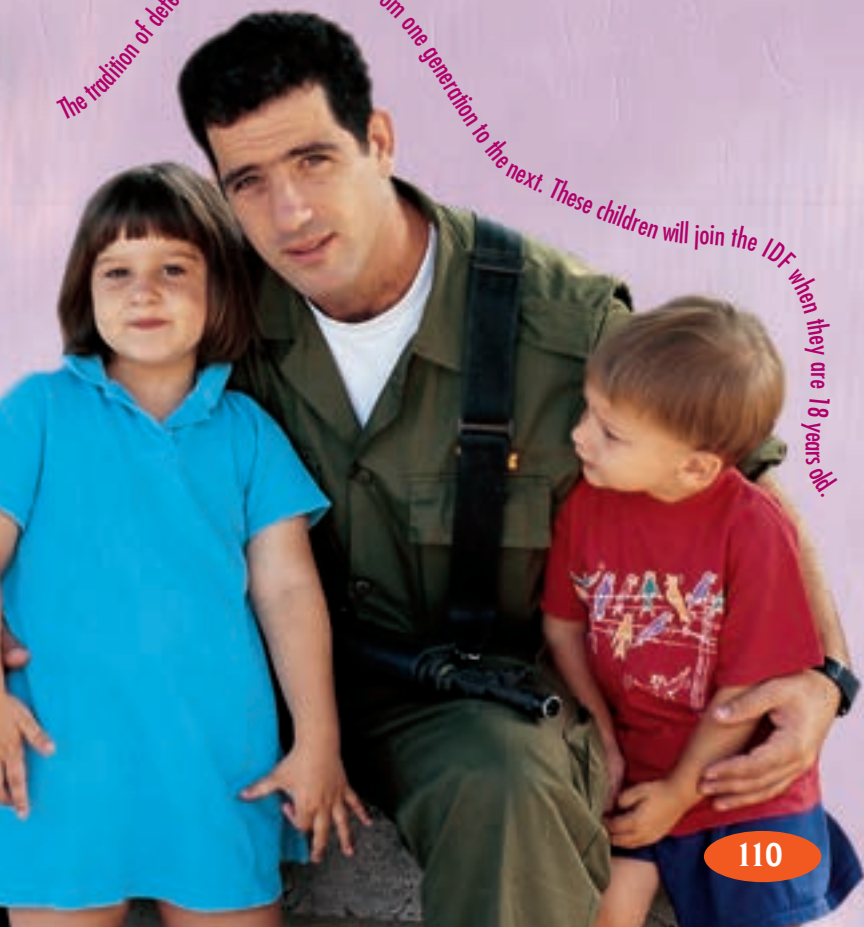
Israeli Defense Forces

מְלוּאִים

military reserve duty

The first word of the term Magen David, or Shield of David, comes from the same root as *Haganah*, meaning to "protect" or "defend."

The tradition of defending Israel is passed on from one generation to the next. These children will join the IDF when they are 18 years old.



## Who Is Not Required to Serve?

Although almost every Israeli must serve in the armed forces, there are some exceptions. Most ultra-Orthodox men do not serve. Some modern Orthodox women serve in the IDF. Other Orthodox women who want to serve their country may choose to spend 2 years in the National Service, where they volunteer in hospitals, teach Hebrew to new immigrants, or work as guides at nature reserves.

Israel's Arab citizens are not obligated to serve in the IDF, although some volunteer to do so. Because Israeli Arabs may have family and friends serving in the armies of neighboring Arab countries, Israel does not demand that its Arab citizens be willing to serve in the IDF. Most of the Arabs who volunteer are Bedouin.



## The Glue that Holds Israel Together

Service in the IDF is an important experience that is shared by almost all of Israel's young men and women. While learning useful skills, they also meet people from all over the country and from backgrounds different from their own. Some people say that the army is the glue that holds Israel together. Because most Israelis have served in the army, they come to feel connected to one another, to the land, and to the history of our people.



Ayala Marari, a second lieutenant in the Israeli Air Force, is a graduate of the Technion's Aeronautical Engineering Department. She is one of many Technion graduates who have helped build and maintain Israel's technological supremacy.

## Did You Know?

In 1984, Amira Dotan became the head of *Chen*, the women's division of the IDF. Dotan was the first woman to rise to the rank of brigadier general. General Dotan was eager to help women achieve important positions in the army by guiding them into the fields of electronics and technology. But, at the time, most girls were not encouraged to study these subjects in school. General Dotan traveled to schools throughout Israel to deliver her message. Because of her efforts, there are now many women who have the training and skills to use sophisticated equipment and computers to defend Israel.

Did you ever hear of a general who is a mother of three, keeps a kosher house, and rushes home each week to observe Shabbat? That's General Dotan!



## Make a Care Package

Soldiers sometimes receive care packages from civilians who want to show their appreciation. Often, a whole town will "adopt" a military unit and send its soldiers gifts for Rosh Hashanah or Passover. Draw the things you would want to send to a soldier who was far from home, protecting Israel. Label each item and explain why you would send it.

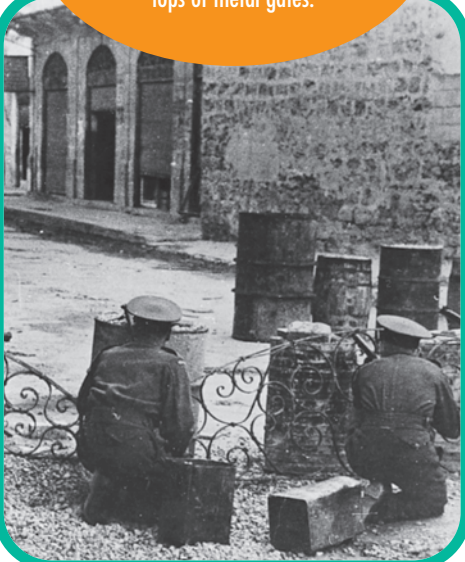
## Israel's War of Independence

As soon as the State of Israel was established on May 14, 1948, Israel's Arab neighbors attacked, and the Israeli War of Independence began. By the time it ended eight months later, more than 6,000 Jews had been killed and approximately half a million Palestinian Arabs had become refugees in Arab countries. The war was over, but no peace treaty had been signed, and hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arab refugees believed their homeland had been unjustly taken from them.



*This map shows Israel's borders in 1948, after the War of Independence.*

To guard against attacks by Arabs, Jewish policemen in the Tel Aviv-Jaffa area built defense posts out of oil drums, barrels, and the pointed tops of metal gates.



## An American Hero

Soon after the War of Independence began, the Arabs cut the only through-road from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The 50,000 Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem were cut off from their supply route, without food and ammunition.

A small Piper Cub plane made two trips a day. In the morning it carried a barrel of flour in the passenger's seat; in the afternoon, a barrel filled with ammunition. But this was scarcely enough. Convoys of armored vehicles—trucks with iron plates fastened over their windows—tried to make their way through, but the Arabs destroyed almost every truck that tried. You can still see the shattered trucks lining the road to Jerusalem when you enter Sha'ar Hagai, the Gate to the Valley.

To the rescue came a Jewish-American graduate of West Point, Colonel David Marcus, a veteran of the

U.S. army. He surveyed the maps and discovered a few tiny paths paralleling the major road. He was assigned men who labored day and night to make these paths into a road—known as the "Burma Road"—passable by light trucks and even herds of cows.

Jerusalem was saved!

During the war, Colonel Marcus was given the undercover name "Mickey Stone" to hide his identity. In 1966, Hollywood made a movie, *Cast a Giant Shadow*, of this extraordinary mission. The

Jewish-American actor Kirk Douglas played the role of Colonel Marcus.



This tank was left on the road to Jerusalem as a memorial to the soldiers who lost their lives bringing supplies to the city during Israel's War of Independence.



## LIVING JEWISH VALUES

### פְּדִיּוֹן שְׁבוּיִים

Pidyon Shevuyim

#### Freeing of Jewish Captives

Pidyon Shevuyim is the mitzvah of rescuing Jewish captives. It teaches us to take responsibility for such Jews by helping to free them. Despite the danger in trying to enter Jerusalem during the War of Independence, there were people who risked their lives to help Jews caught inside the city without food or medicine.

Operation Moses, the airlift of Ethiopian Jews discussed in chapter 2, is another example of Pidyon Shevuyim.

Explain the mitzvah of Pidyon Shevuyim in your own words.

---

---

L.J.V.

Israel also played an important role in freeing Jewish captives in Yemen and the former Soviet Union.



## The Suez War

There were no wars for several years, but there were many acts of Arab terrorism that killed or injured hundreds of Israeli citizens. Then, in 1956, Egypt blocked the Strait of Tiran in the Gulf of Akaba (the Arab name for the Gulf of Eilat) near the southern tip of Israel, cutting off Israel from Africa and Asia. In addition, Israel feared that Egypt (which had been newly supplied with weapons from the Soviet Union) was planning an attack. Israel decided to strike first. And so began the Suez War, also called the Sinai Campaign, on October 29. The war lasted eight days. Israel agreed to return the Sinai Desert and the Gaza Strip, which it had captured. But like the War of Independence, the Sinai Campaign ended without a peace treaty.



### What Do You Think?

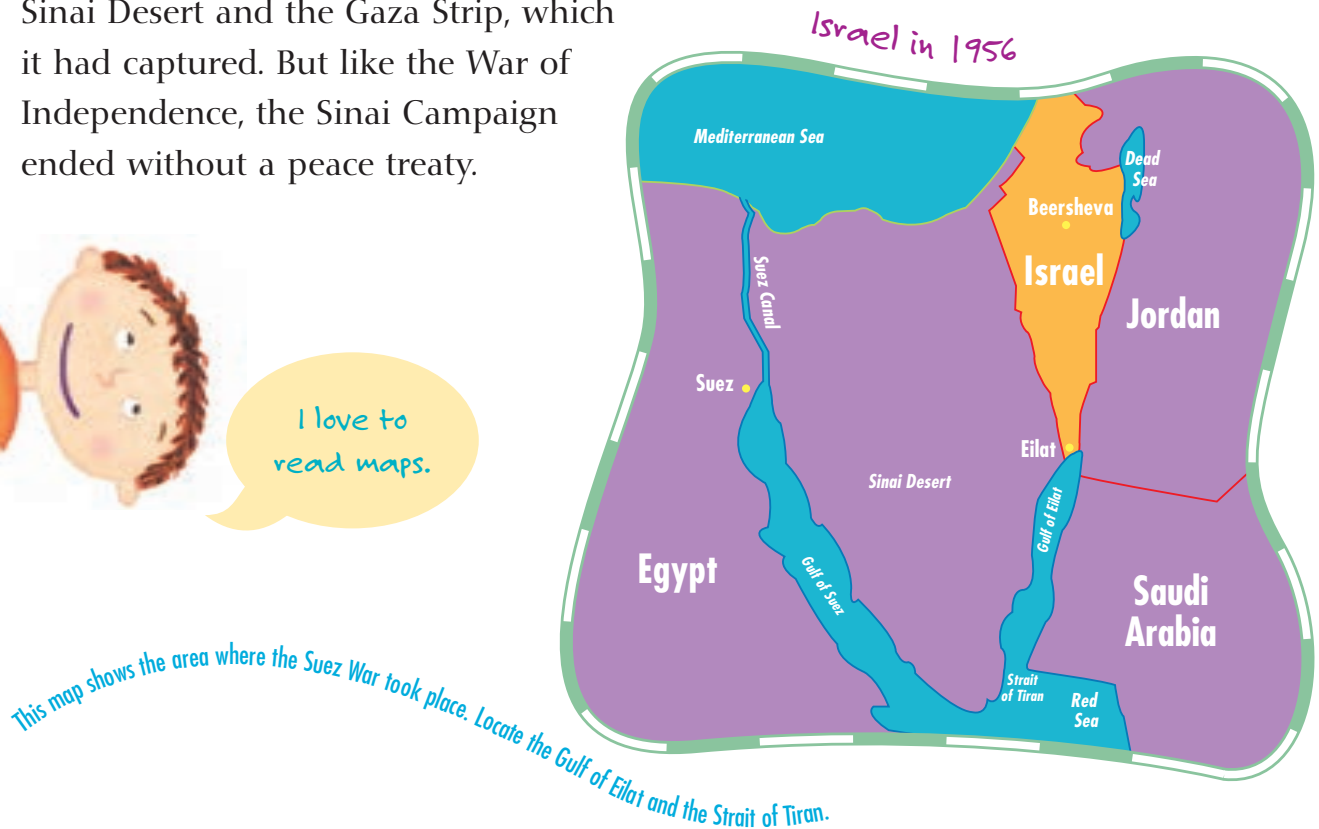
The IDF has an ethical code that permits soldiers to defend themselves but forbids them from needlessly injuring another person. The code requires soldiers to honor the Jewish value of the sanctity of human life.

Do you think Israeli soldiers should be held to a higher ethical standard than other soldiers? Why or why not?

---

---

---



## The Six-Day War

Arab terrorist raids began again in 1965, and in 1967 Syria, Egypt, and Jordan prepared for war. For a second time, Egypt blockaded the Gulf of Akaba, cutting off Israel's oil supply. On June 5, Israel again struck first. In six days the war was over. Israel had gained control of the West Bank of Jordan and the Golan Heights of Syria, and had regained the Sinai Desert and Gaza Strip. But most importantly, it now had control of East Jerusalem, including the Old City! Jerusalem was united, and once again Jews could pray at the *Kotel*.



*Israeli troops celebrating their astonishing victory in the Six-Day War*



All around the world, Jews and many non-Jews celebrated Israel's victory in the Six-Day War. Like the story of David and Goliath, the small nation of Israel had defeated its powerful foes. Throughout Israel, there was dancing in the streets. For the first time, Israelis began to feel more secure about their future.

But, as a result of the war, Israel also found itself governing 1 million Arabs who lived in the newly conquered territories. The Israelis felt very powerful ruling the Palestinians; the Palestinians felt oppressed and became determined to become an independent people with their own state.



## The Yom Kippur War

On Yom Kippur in 1973, Israel was caught off guard. While many Israelis were in synagogue, praying and fasting on this, the holiest day of the Jewish year, Egypt and Syria attacked. The IDF immediately called up its reservists, but it was almost impossible to react quickly enough.

The outnumbered Israeli soldiers heroically stopped the Syrians' invasion of the Golan Heights, but the Syrians broke through Israeli border defenses, killing hundreds of Israelis. The Syrians stopped their attack and the IDF, mobilizing its reserve units, conquered additional land in Syria.

You can read about David and Goliath in the Bible, in the book of Samuel.

The story tells how, before David was king of Israel, he fought and killed the giant Goliath with just a slingshot.

Why do you think people sometimes compare Israel to David?

---

---

---

---



My mom grew up in Cape Town, South Africa. She told me that when Israel's victory in the Six-Day War was announced, her school—Weizmann Primary School—cancelled all classes for the day. The students gathered in the school's courtyard and danced Israeli dances for hours. Many parents joined the celebration and cried with joy as they watched their children dance.



The situation in the Sinai was worse for the Israelis. The Egyptian forces were protected with land-to-air missiles that severely reduced the effectiveness of the Israeli air support. On the southern border, 436 Israelis in bunkers faced 600,000 Egyptian soldiers!

Despite great difficulty and the loss of many lives, and with extensive supplies of military equipment from the United States, Israel managed to turn the tide. As Israeli troops neared Cairo, the capital of Egypt, a truce was put into effect. This led, under U.S. mediation, to the Camp David Accords (1978) and to the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, the first peace treaty between Israel and any of its Arab neighbors.

### Israel After the Yom Kippur War



Which desert area was given back to Egypt in the 1979 peace treaty?

The Israel Air Force Museum is located near Beersheva. It has over 90 airplanes, including Israel's first fighter plane, the Kfir. Like many Israeli kids, I am both proud of our air force and I pray for a time when its planes are used only for peaceful purposes.





## A First Peace Treaty Is Signed

On March 26, 1979, with the help of American president Jimmy Carter, Israeli prime minister Menahem Begin and Egyptian president Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty. Based on that treaty, Israel gave back the entire Sinai Desert in return for peace with Egypt.

*From left to right, Anwar Sadat, Jimmy Carter, and Menahem Begin after signing the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty in March 1979*



Egypt and Israel hoped that other Arab countries would want to make peace, too, but instead they were angry with Egypt. The Palestine Liberation Organization, or PLO, which was the leading representative of the Palestinian people, refused to participate in peace talks, and, from its bases in Lebanon (Israel's northern neighbor), the PLO engaged in terrorist attacks on Israel.

### Did You Know?

In 1978, Menahem Begin and Anwar Sadat were awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace for their efforts to end the Israeli-Arab conflict.

## The War in Lebanon

In June 1982, Israel sent soldiers into Lebanon because of the growing number of PLO bases in southern Lebanon. The IDF forced the PLO to leave Beirut, the capital, as well as southern Lebanon. Israel stayed on the outskirts of Beirut to prevent the PLO's return. But many Israelis felt that this military operation had gone on for too long, without enough reason. By early 1985, the IDF units had withdrawn from most of Lebanon, leaving only a small strip of southern Lebanon under Israeli control.



Yasir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, wearing a kaffiyeh, a traditional headcovering worn by Arab men

### Israel and Her Northern Neighbors



Locate Beirut on this map.





## What Do You Think?

In Lebanon in September 1982, the IDF permitted their Christian partners—the Phalange—to enter the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila. The Phalange slaughtered 2,300 men, women, and children. The IDF did nothing to stop them. In response, 400,000 Israelis demonstrated in Tel Aviv demanding that the government investigate why the IDF had not stopped the Phalange.

Do you think that Israeli citizens should be permitted to protest military decisions? What about Jews living outside of Israel—should their opinions count? Why?

---

---

---

## The Intifada

In late 1987, the *Intifada*, meaning “shaking off” or “uprising” in Arabic, broke out in the Gaza Strip and in Arab towns and villages on the West Bank. The Palestinians living in these areas rebelled against Israeli control, rioting in the streets. Children threw stones at Israeli soldiers, and Israeli soldiers responded with tear gas and rubber and plastic bullets. Some soldiers panicked, shooting and killing civilians.

In September 1991, the Israeli army announced that since the beginning of the Intifada, 1,225 Arabs and 13 Israeli soldiers had been killed. People in Israel and around the world wanted the fighting to stop.

## A Second Peace Treaty Is Signed

Finally, in 1993, with the help of the U.S. government, a peace arrangement called the Declaration of Principles was signed by PLO chairman Yasir Arafat and Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. It was signed at the White House in Washington, D.C., using the very same table on which Menahem Begin and Anwar Sadat had signed the Camp David Accords in 1978. Yasir Arafat, on behalf of the Palestinian people, recognized the State of Israel and rejected the use of violence toward its citizens. In return, Israel agreed to give partial independence to the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank, and to come to final agreement on the other issues—including control over Jerusalem—at a later time.

In his speech, Yitzhak Rabin addressed the Palestinian people, “We say to you today in a loud and clear voice: Enough of blood and tears. Enough. We harbor no hatred toward you. We have no desire for revenge. We, like you, are people who want to build a home, plant a tree, love, live side by side with you.”

### A Vision of Peace

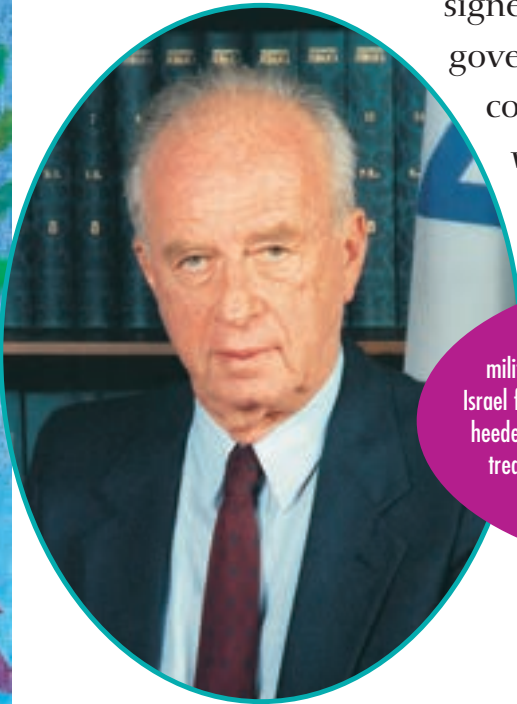
The prophet Isaiah had a beautiful vision of a time when there would be no more wars. He wrote, “And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4).

This verse from the book of Isaiah is inscribed on a monument across the street from the United Nations in New York City.

In 1994, the Nobel Prize for Peace was jointly awarded to Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres (a former Israeli prime minister), and Yasir Arafat for their roles in helping to bring peace to the Middle East.



On October 26, 1994, Jordan's King Hussein signed a peace treaty with Israel in which the two governments agreed on the borders between their countries and on how to share the precious waters of the Yarmuk and Jordan Rivers, and the water of the Arava.



Yitzhak Rabin (1922–1995) was a military commander who served in the defense of Israel for 27 years and then became prime minister. He heeded the words of Isaiah when he signed the peace treaty and said, "Let us pray that a day will come when we all will say: Farewell to arms."

An Israeli soldier (right) and Jordanian soldier (left) look forward to a future of peace and friendship.





# A Fallen Soldier of Peace

On November 4, 1995, a rally was held in Tel Aviv in support of the peace process. As the rally came to an end, from a high platform, Yitzhak Rabin joined the crowd in singing "The Song of Peace":

So sing only a song for peace  
Do not whisper a prayer  
Better sing a song for peace  
With a great shout.

When the song ended, Rabin left the platform. As he went toward his car he was shot and killed by Yigal Amir, a Jewish religious fanatic who opposed the peace process.



At Yitzhak Rabin's funeral President and Mrs. Clinton (first row) were among those who offered the Rabin family and all Israel their sympathy and hopes for shalom.

## Looking Forward to a Better Future

So far, the road to peace has been long and rocky. Slowly, though, progress has been made. Like people all around the world, Israelis want peace. They also want to be safe—free from attacks by terrorists and foreign soldiers. Finding and following the path toward peace and security is the greatest challenge of our time—for Israel and for all nations.

Draw here.  
you can draw lots  
of things...

## Best Wishes for Peace

Send a postcard to the prime minister of Israel, an Arab leader, or the president of the United States. On the front of the card, draw a picture of what you think Israel will look like when there is peace with all its Arab neighbors.

On the back of the card, share your thoughts about Israel's struggle for peace and what your hopes are for the future.



Write stuff here.