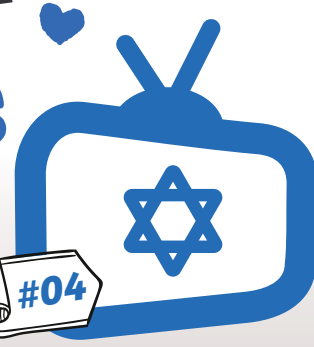


ISRAEL news for kids

The Magazine

#04



Borders

Did you know that if you hike up to the top of Mount Tzphachot, near the city of Eilat in Israel, you can see where the borders of three different countries meet?

Israel, Jordan and Egypt.

And if you climb to the highest mountain in Israel, Mount Hermon in the north, you can also see the point where three borders – of Israel, Lebanon and Syria – meet.

And did you know that if you're sailing on the Dead Sea (just be careful, the water's really salty!), you may happen to cross the border between Israel and Jordan, even though there's no physical barrier to tell you so.

So what is a border?

It's a line that separates two places. The area of every country is defined by its borders.

The State of Israel has natural borders – for example, on the western side, the border is all along the Mediterranean Sea.

And political borders, with the countries next to it – Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt.



IMG generated from AI



IMG WIKIPEDIA, Ben-Gurion declared the independence of the State of Israel on May 14th 1948

In the Declaration of Independence, Israel did not declare what its borders were. They were fixed gradually, over the years.

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In 1948, at the United Nations (UN) vote, the Partition Plan was proposed. The intent was to divide Israel into a both a Jewish State and an Arab State, with the city of Jerusalem remaining under the UN's international control.

The Arab residents rejected the plan and attacked the new founded Jewish State. This became known as the War of Independence from which the borders were fixed according to the Armistice Line... (known today as «The Green Line,» because that was the color of the line drawn on the map).

After the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel had new borders, and the areas of Judah and Samaria, the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip and half the island of Sinai were added.

Later, Israel made peace agreements with neighboring countries, which sometimes impacted on the precise borders. For example, Sinai was given to Egypt.

The question of where the exact borders of Israel are has been asked throughout its history. The border question creates conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, as well as its other neighbors.

A live example of this is the «Swords of Iron» War going on now, most of which is happening on the south western border, in the Gaza Strip.

19 years ago, Israel left the Gaza Strip, giving up part of its own land and moving its border. However, after the events of October 7, 2023, the Israeli Army moved in to fight in the Gaza Strip.

There is no peace on Israel's northern border either, and there too, a large military force is protecting the residents of the north and the rest of Israel's population from our enemies in Lebanon.



IMG WIKIPEDIA, Israel's borders in 1948.

Over the 75 years of the State of Israel, its borders have known wars, peace talks, armistice agreements, and more.

But still, with all that, the Land of Israel will always be the Land of the Jewish people. And we will always look to live in peace with all of our neighbors on all of our borders.

The Municipal Line

Imagine yourself going back in time to November 20, 1948, and visiting the Musrara neighborhood in Jerusalem. There you see something a little weird...



IMG WIKIPEDIA

An officer from the Israel Defense Forces Moshe Dayan and the Commander of the Jordanian Army, Abdullah el-Tal, are sitting on the floor. Moshe Dayan is holding a green crayon, and Abdullah el-Tal a red one.

No, they are not stopping the war to draw together... The time depicted here is the end of the War of Independence. Israel was only established a few months earlier. This is already the young State's first war.

At the end of the war, when Israel and Jordan wanted to decide where their new borders should be, the two commanders met with a map of Israel and two colored crayons.

Each of them drew the line at the spot their soldiers had reached: the red line symbolized the Jordanian forces' border, and the green line the Israeli forces' border.

That's how the two lines were created next to each other, and the area in between these two lines was declared "no-man's land" (an area that doesn't belong to anyone and no soldiers are allowed there).

Everyone thought that this map would be temporary. No one thought it would be Israel's border for 19 years! (until the Six-Day War).

This map had a number of problems:

- The lines they drew were thick.
- A few inches on a map can be dozens of yards in reality!
- Indeed, there were many strange cases of houses that didn't know where they belonged to – Israel, Jordan or no-man's land?

An amusing story from this period is of a Jewish house in the Israeli area, with its bathroom out in the yard (bathrooms were outside in those days), which happened to be in no-man's land.



IMG WIKIPEDIA

Every time any family member wanted to visit this important place, Jordanian soldiers would jump out and threaten them, saying they had illegally crossed the border.

Or the story of Operation Soccer Ball, in which three army officers – one from Israel, one from Jordan and one from the UN – were sent to no-man's land to collect about 30 soccer balls kicked there from a school near the Jordanian side of the border. (They had to abandon almost every game when someone kicked the ball over the fence.) As a gesture for Christmas in 1965, Israel was asked to bring a little joy to these children and return the balls.

Another famous and funny story is the story of the nun Theresa from St Louis Hospital, which was in the Israeli area. She woke up one sunny morning, opened her window, and yawned such a big yawn... that her false teeth flew out of the window straight into no-man's land!

To recover the teeth, they had to send a special search party of UN representatives, Jordanian soldiers and Israeli soldiers into no-man's land until they found the teeth and returned them to the happy nun.

After the Six-Day War, the Israeli Army liberated all of the city of Jerusalem, and this line, the border in the middle of a city, was removed.



IMG WIKIPEDIA

Today, all of Jerusalem is within Israel's borders and is the capital city of the State of Israel.



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«כי את כל הארץ אשר אתה רואה לך אתננה ולזרעך עד עולם»
«For all this land which you see, I will give it to you and your children forever.»
(Bereishit 13:15)

The Land of Israel is also called «The Promised Land.»

In the Torah, God promises the Land to each of the fore fathers of our nation – **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.**

The first to receive the divine promise was Abraham when he first came from Aram Naharayim to **Israel.**

God tells him to look all around, to the four corners of the earth, and says to him that He will give all the land before him and his children and grandchildren forever.

Later, in the Covenant of the Parts, God gives a little more detail and says that the area of the promised Land of Israel is from the Great River in Egypt to the Prat River in Syria.

The Land of Israel and its borders were already mentioned in the Bible 4,000 years ago.

Let's sing the song about
God's promise to Abraham,
Dedi Graucher's I Will Give to You

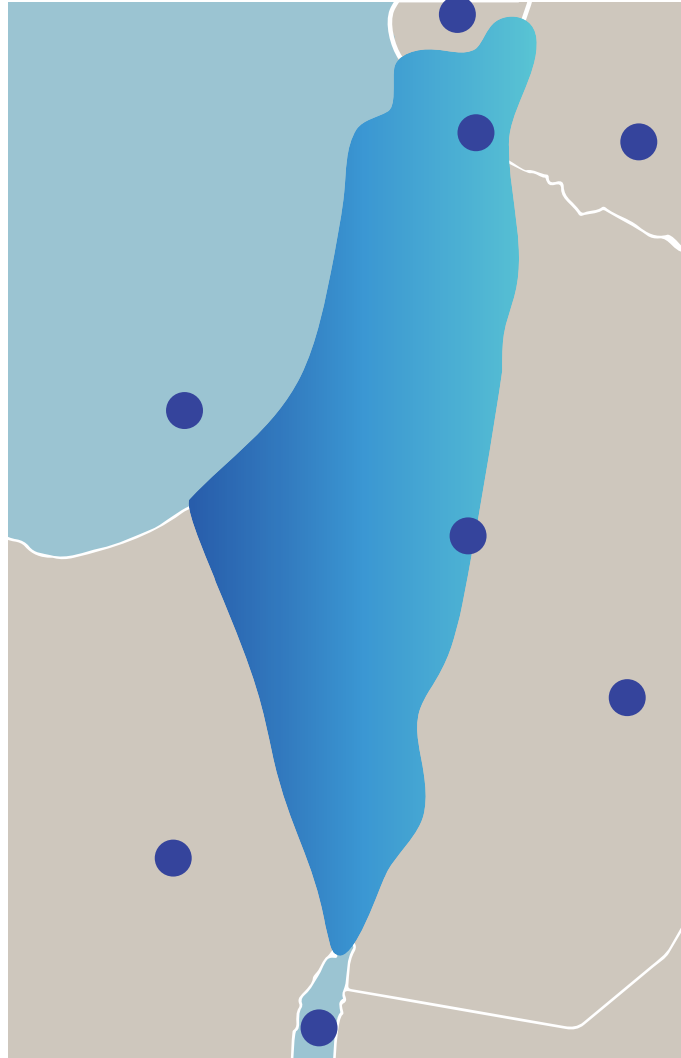


IMG UNSPLASH, Cole Keister

The Borders Game : You have a map with the borders of Israel.
Draw a line from the different names to their place on the map.



The Mediterranean Sea | Lebanon | The Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) | Syria



Egypt | Red Sea | Jordan | the Dead Sea



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**Watch the
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