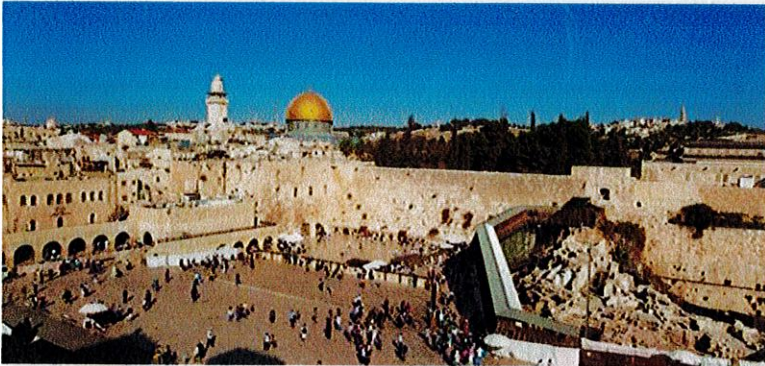


# Writing Prompt #1

## Why can't we all just get along?

Use the maps, pictures, and captions on this page, as well as what you have learned from the Religion 101 exercise, to answer the question above. In your answer, also include what you think we can do today to help improve this?



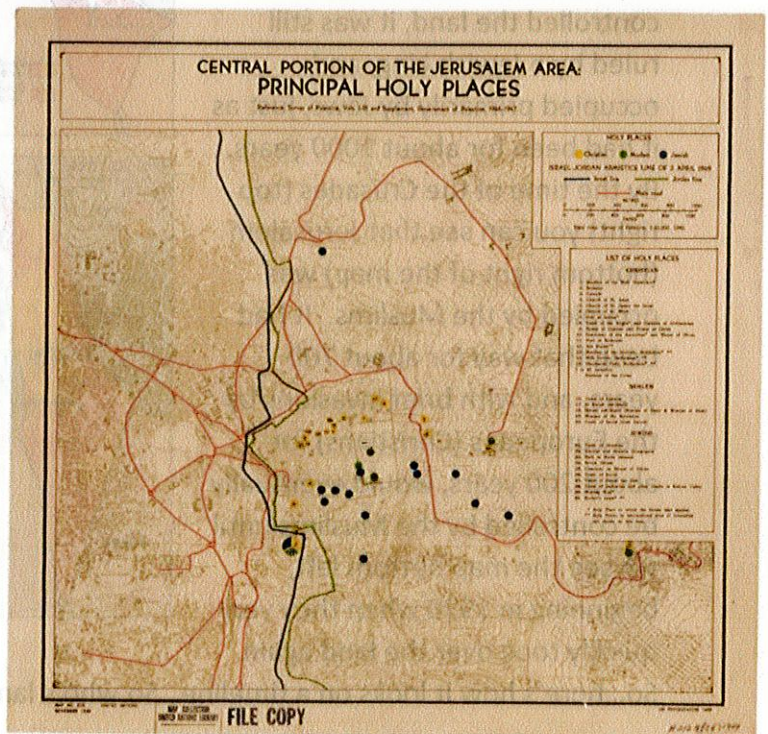
The most holy site to the Jewish people is the only existing wall from their Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple was destroyed with the city by the Romans in 70 A.D. In the background, you can see the Dome of the Rock, one of the 4 most holy sites to the Muslim world. It is on the same hill, literally built on the ruins of the Jewish Temple.



Pro-Palestinian groups (green flags) burn US and Israel flags in a rally. These Muslim groups are against the nation of Israel, and believe that all of the Jews should leave the region.

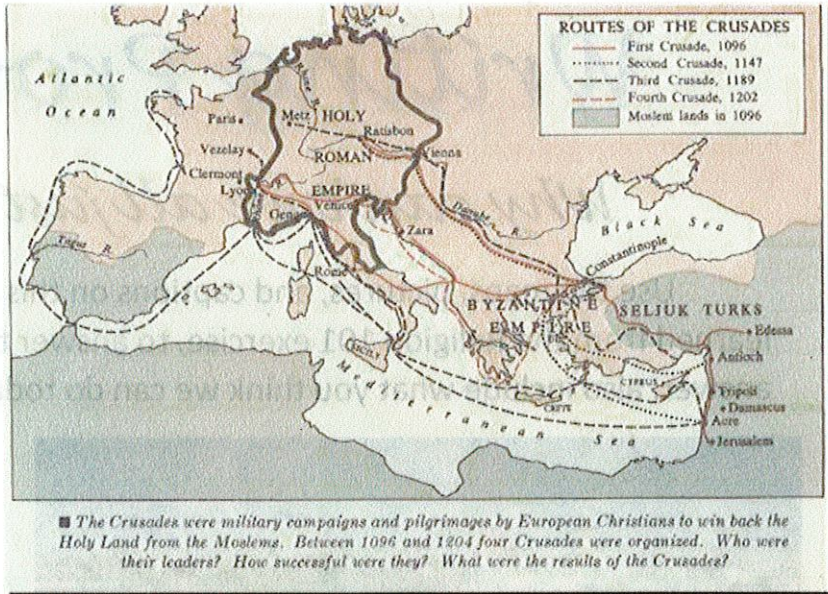
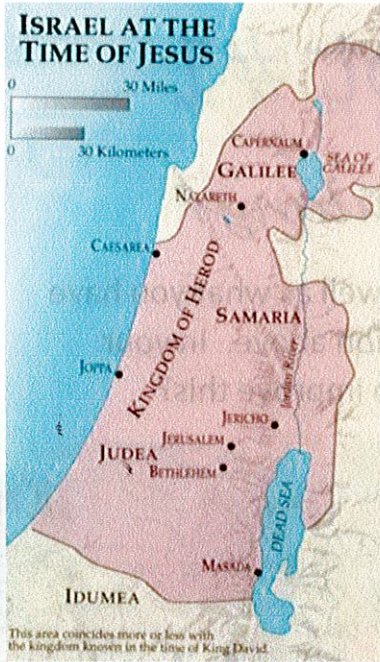


After World War 2, the British gave the Jewish people a country in Palestine. As you can see by the above map, the state of Israel has been expanding throughout the last 70 years. It is important to note that the expansion of Israeli land is normally as a result of Palestinian aggression. What usually happens is the Palestinians attack the Israelis, so the Israelis invade Palestinian land, and then don't give it back.

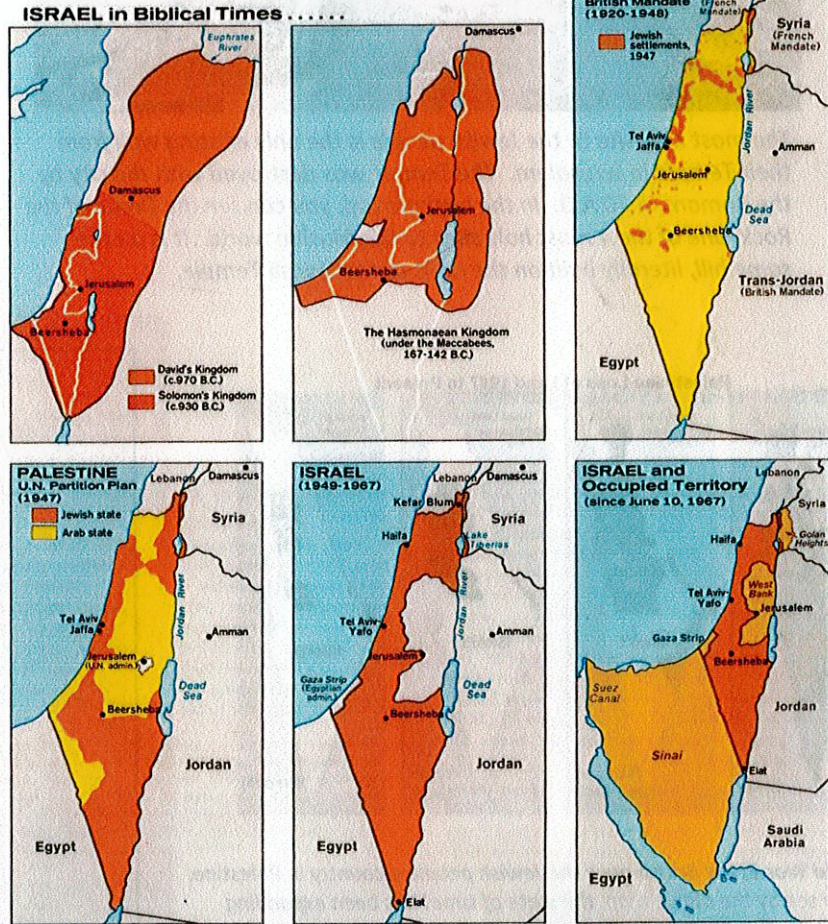


You probably learned about the Crusades that took place during the 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries. This fighting was over the City of Jerusalem between the Muslims and the Christians. This map shows holy sites to the Jews (blue), Christians (yellow), and Muslims (green) all in one city, only a few miles apart.





These maps illustrate several very important facts about the occupation of modern-day Israel. At the top left is the Kingdom of Herod, which was 2000 years ago at the time of Jesus. While the Roman Empire technically controlled the land, it was still ruled by a Jewish king, and occupied primarily by Jews, just as it had been for about 1000 years. By the time of the Crusades (top right) you can see that Jerusalem (bottom right of the map) was occupied by the Muslims. It had been that way for about 700 years, and with brief invasions by the Europeans (Christians) for about 200 years, would eventually be controlled by the Muslims until we see the map bottom left, beginning in 1920 when they very quickly took over the land again. So...here's how it looks on a timeline. So who's land is it?



The Parliament of Israel proclaimed Jerusalem as its national capital in 1950. The US Government has not recognized this proclamation and its embassy remains in Tel Aviv-Yafo.

