

CONFLICT IN THE HOLY LAND: A symbolic narrative

1. Once upon a time a man named Purple moved with his wife and servants to a special land called “Promise.” Purple received the land from his God, who declared that “Promise” would belong to all of Purple’s future descendants.
2. Purple’s descendants were many! Three different groups traced their ancestry all the way back to Purple. The Greens came first; then *thousands* of years later came the Reds; and then *hundreds* of years after the Reds came the Blues.
3. The Greens occupied “Promise” for a long time. They established a kingdom on the land and built a great temple to honor the God of their father, Purple. They believed the land was holy, and they saw themselves as its protectors.
4. But protecting and keeping the land was difficult. Outsiders (the Yellows, Oranges, Greys, and Pinks, for instance) invaded and conquered Promise at different times, and over the centuries they expelled the Greens from their father’s land. When given the chance plenty of Greens did indeed return, but the spreading out of the Greens into far-off territories was a significant effect of so much conquest.
5. With most Greens having moved out, the land of Promise became like a rope in a tug-of-war match between Purple’s other descendants, the Reds and the Blues. Both groups believed the land was special, not just because of Father Purple but because of specific red and blue events that happened in the land. Reds and Blues fought each other, and ultimately the Blues came out on top.
6. After their final victory over the Reds, the Blues held and protected the land of Promise for centuries and centuries and centuries. They brought peace and prosperity to the land, and they were welcoming to the much smaller Green and Red populations that remained there under Blue law.
7. Gradually, however, as the Blues neared 700 years of uninterrupted control of Promise, large populations of Greens started returning to the homeland. They did not only want to live in Promise but to govern themselves there, too. The Blues did not appreciate this “homecoming” and argued that Promise belonged to *them*, the Blues, for they had been there as its caretakers and governors for *many* generations while the Greens were gone.

The story above follows the timeline you received last week. Try to match the groups and events above with those on the timeline.

8. Tensions between Greens and Blues intensified when outsiders – first the Browns and later all of the Browns’ neighbors – declared that Greens *should* have a homeland in Promise. The *United Neighbors* (which included the Browns) suggested that Promise be split into separate Green and Blue states. The Blues argued that the United Neighbors were likely to treat the Blues unfairly by giving them worse lands, so they rejected the plan. At this point the Greens went ahead and declared the creation of Greenville. The Blues, of course, refused to accept Greenville as an official state. War broke out!
9. The Greens were victorious, in spite of the fact that the Blues had received so much support from the blueish states in the region. After the war hundreds of thousands of Blues were driven from their lands and became refugees in the blueish states nearby. (Many refugees have since returned.)
10. In recent decades, relations between Greenville and the Blues have remained hostile. Compromise efforts *have* set aside for the Blues two disconnected territories. Unhelpfully, these areas are run by different Blue leaders who do not see eye to eye (one is willing to work with Greenville, the other is not). Additionally, Greenville authorities continue to build Green settlements throughout one of the Blue territories; this offends the Blues and makes them suspicious of *any* compromise. Finally, neither group is willing to give up its claim to the capital city where the holiest green and blue sites are located.

CHALLENGE: IS THERE A SOLUTION THAT WOULD LEAD TO PEACE & STABILITY?

February 19-20, 2019

Conflict in the Holy Land: Israel and Palestine

INSTRUCTIONS

Go to the class website (www.prather.yolasite.com), and click on the tab that says “FEB 20.” You will see 12 topics on the page – the same topics listed below. Each is followed by a research question or set of questions.

Read the questions before you click on the topic. As you view the source (after clicking the topic), look/listen for answers to the research questions. Write the answers in the boxes below.

1. Abrahamic Religions

2. Nationalism

3. Zionism

4. Balfour Declaration of 1917

5. The UN Partition Plan of 1947

6. The Arab-Israeli War of 1948

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7. PLO

8. The Six-Day War of 1967

9. The Oslo Accords

10. The Intifadas

11. Hamas and Fatah

12. Israeli Settlements

***Go back to the symbolic narrative about the Greens and the Blues. In the space below identify all of the groups and events that are listed and described in segments 8-10 of the story.