

Chapter Eight

The Attitude to Israel

The State of Israel is not recognized by Saudi Arabia, and this is reflected in the textbooks, as Israel's name does not appear on any of the maps therein, and Israel is not counted among the countries of the region. Instead, the names "Palestine" and "occupied Palestine" are shown and mentioned. Except for a very few cases, names of cities founded by the Jews in modern times do not appear on the maps either. Also, Israeli regions, such as the Negev, and cities, such as Haifa and Acre, are described as Palestinian. There are few references to Israel itself in the textbooks—and these are all negative.

Nonrecognition

The Political Units

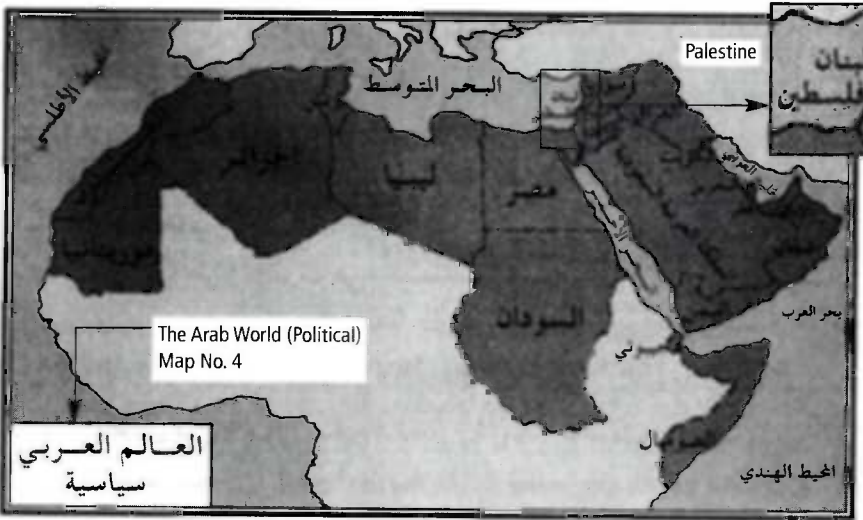
The Arab world is divided ... into two parts:

1. The Arab countries in Asia, which include the states of the Arabian Peninsula (Do you know these states?), Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine.

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 17

Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon compose [one] geographic unit.

Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 44



Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 17

The Countries of the Levant [Sham]

The countries of the Levant [Sham] are located north of the Arabian Peninsula and east of the Mediterranean and they include: Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 30

Questions

Look at the map of the Levant countries No. 7 and fill in the following empty spaces with the appropriate phrases:

— Palestine and Jordan both face the Gulf of () [Aqaba].

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 33



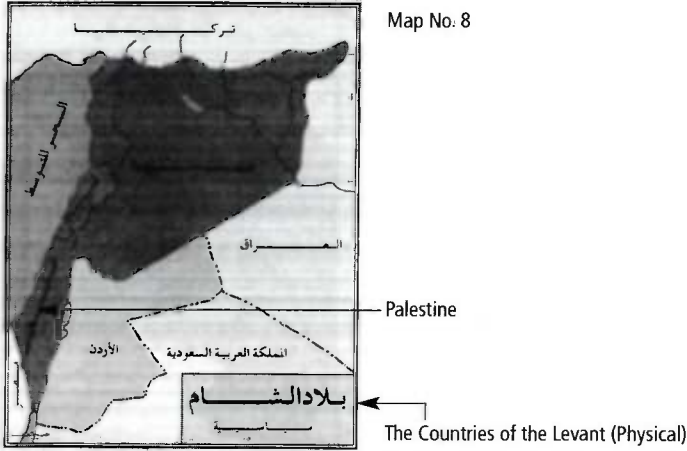
Map No. 7

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 31

Palestine

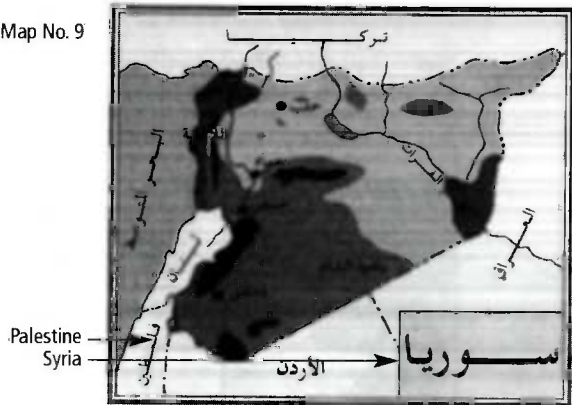
The Countries of the Levant (Physical)

Syria is situated east of the Mediterranean and is bordered ... on the west by the Mediterranean, Lebanon and Palestine.
Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 34



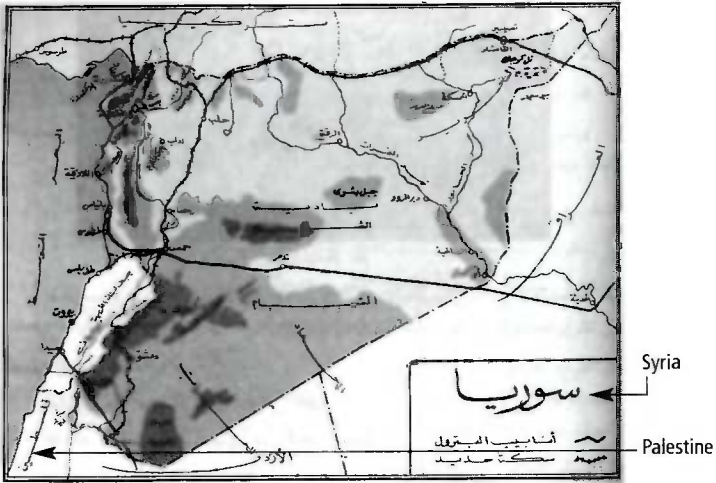
Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 32

Map No. 9



Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 34

Syria faces the Mediterranean, which is located on its west.
Lebanon and Palestine are located to its southwest.
Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 48

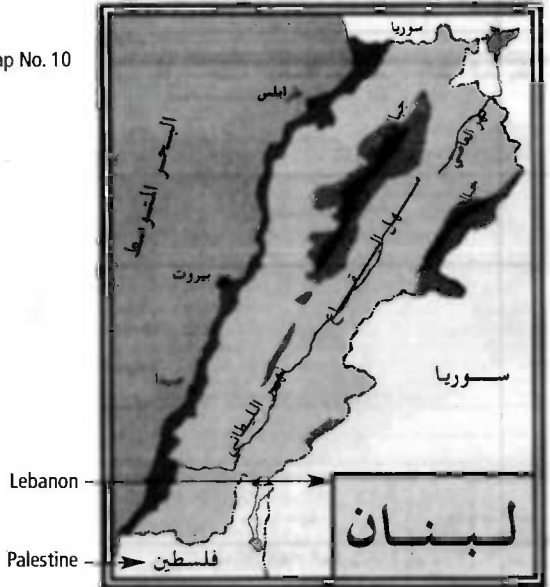


Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 49

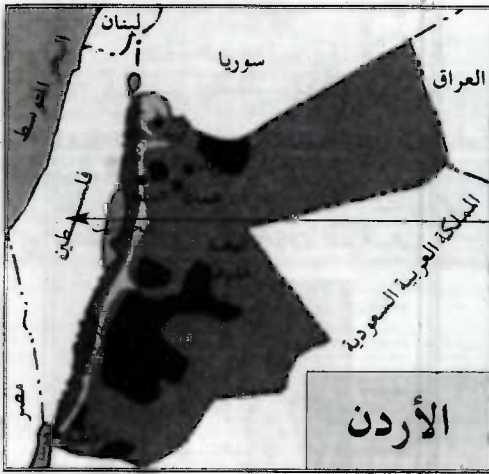
Lebanon is situated in the west[ern part] of the Asian continent and faces the Mediterranean. It is bordered ... on the south by Palestine. See Map No. 10.

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 36

Map No. 10



Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 36



Map No. 11
Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 38

Jordan is situated northwest of the Arabian Peninsula and is bordered ... on the west by Palestine.

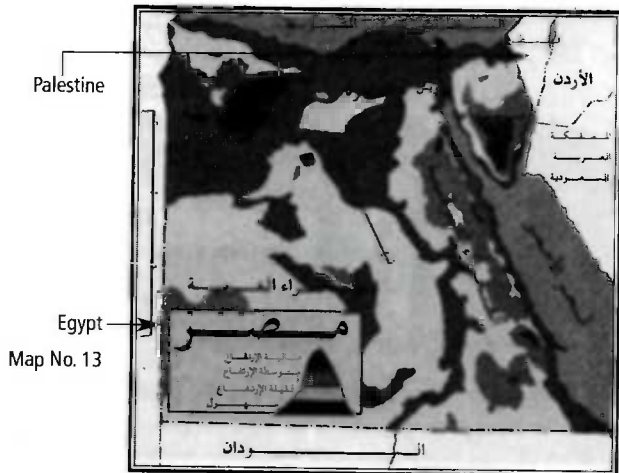
Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 38

As for the most important rivers that flow in the countries of the Levant ... the Jordan River [flows] between Palestine and Jordan.

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 30

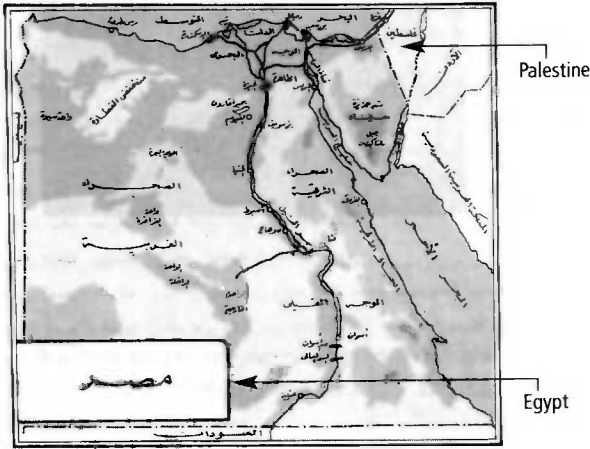
Egypt is situated ... and is bordered on the east by ... and [by] Palestine.

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 46

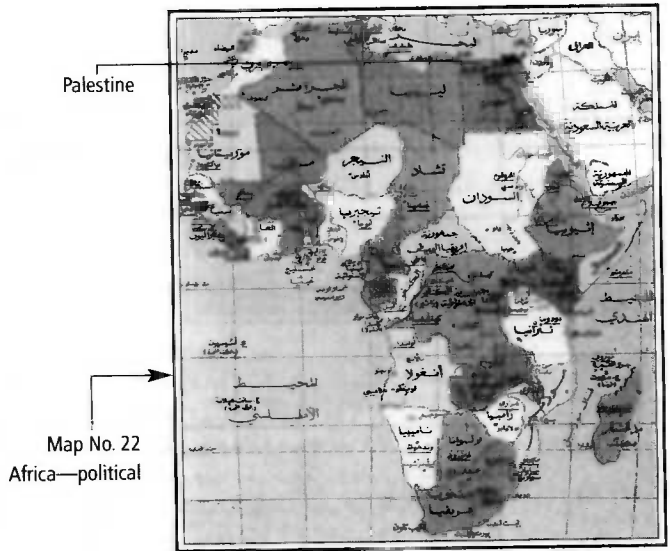


Map No. 13

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 47



Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 52



Geography of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and the External World, Grade 9, (2000) p. 85

Palestine: Location and Boundaries

Palestine is located in the west[ern part] of the Asian continent. It is bordered on the east by Syria and Jordan, to the north—by Lebanon, on the west—by the Mediterranean and Egypt and to the south—by Egypt and the Gulf of Aqaba. See map No. 12.

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 40

Map No. 12



Palestine

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 41

Study Map No. 7 and you will find out that Palestine is situated on the [shore of] the Mediterranean and is bordered on the east by Jordan and Syria, to the north—by Lebanon, to the south—by the Gulf of Aqaba and on the west—by the Mediterranean and Egypt.

Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 44

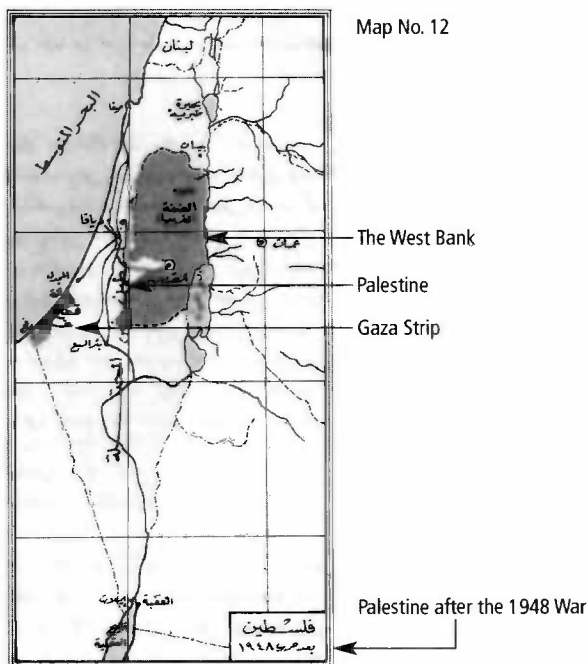
Map No. 7



Palestine

Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 45

[It should be noted that this map does show the Jewish cities of Tel Aviv and Eilat, a rare phenomenon in Arab textbooks, which tend to ignore any modern, non-Arab settlement in the country.]



Biography of the Prophet and History of the Muslim State, Grade 10, (2001) p. 116

[The Jewish city of Eilat is shown on this map as well, but Tel Aviv is not.]

Israeli Regions and Cities Presented as Palestinian

Palestine’s surface consists, in general, of the following:

—Coastal plains stretching from north to south and growing wider the more we head south. These plains are considered the most fertile parts of Palestine.

—The hill region in the middle and then the Jordan Valley, which is situated to the east of the hills....

And in the south [there is] the region of the Negev desert,¹ which is a height situated to the south of the Hebron hills. It occupies half the surface of Palestine and looks like a triangle. This is a

1. The Negev region in its entirety was an integral part of Israel in its pre-1967 borders.

strategic region among the Arab countries because it serves as the connecting link and corridor between the northern Arabian Peninsula and Sinai. The Jews embarked upon establishing their colonies there and made it a habitation for crowds of Jews who immigrate to Palestine.

Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 46

[Most of the coastal plain and much of the hill region, as well as all of the Negev, were integral parts of pre-1967 Israel.]

Explain the following:

The importance of the Negev desert.

Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 47

The Negev desert is in southern Palestine.

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 30

The Most Important Cities:

Jerusalem²: It is the capital. Al-Aqsa Mosque is there....

Haifa: An important port [city].

Jaffa: An important port [city].

Nablus: An important city of the hinterland with commercial and scientific standing.

Acre: A city on the coast with historical importance.

Gaza: A coastal city that has historical importance.

Hebron: A city of the hinterland. The noble Ibrahimi Mosque [the Machpelah sanctuary, Tomb of the Patriarchs] is there. (See the map.)

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 40

Jerusalem, Nablus, Jaffa, and Haifa are some of the larger cities in occupied Palestine. They are ancient cities, each of which has witnessed wars and occupation attempts on the part of many enemies throughout history.

Dictation, Grade 8, pt. 1 (2000) p. 24

2. The larger part of Jerusalem has been Israeli since 1948, as have Haifa, Jaffa, and Acre.

Among its [Palestine's] most famous cities as well are Haifa, Jaffa, Acre, Gaza, and Hebron.

Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 47

Draw a map of Palestine, showing:

The borders with the neighboring countries.

The capital and three important cities.

The Negev Desert.

The Dead Sea.

The Jordan River.

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 43

Israel's Image

The gangs' state was thus established....

[Literary] Study, Grade 10, (2001) p. 108

Why was Israel implanted in this land?

Reader and Texts, Grade 7, pt. 2 (2001) p. 68

...the brutal Israeli aggression...

Reader and Texts, Grade 9, pt. 2 (2001) p. 81