

THE LAND OF PALESTINE

activities for kids 3+

Materials

General

- A world map showing Palestine.
- Photos of Palestine (some included in this curriculum).

Sensory Activity

- Olive leaves or branches (or a jar of olives or bottle of olive oil)
- Prickly pear fruit (sabar)
- Fresh thyme
- Jaffa oranges (or any oranges)
- Strawberries

Olive Tree Activity

- Scissors
- An olive tree trunk drawn on large paper (or you could draw it on a whiteboard or chalkboard)
- Paper cut into olive leaf shapes (big enough to draw & write on)
- Things to write & draw with
- Tape to hang up the tree trunk and leaves

EXPLORING WITH OUR SENSES

Have you heard the word “Palestine” before? Palestine is a place. It’s on the continent of Asia. *[Find Palestine on a map.]*

Palestine is a place, but it is also a *land*. **What does the word “land” make you think of?** The land of Palestine is dirt and rock and water and trees and plants and animals. Palestinian people live on and love this land.

Let’s look at some photos of the land of Palestine. *[Pass around photos.]* **What do you notice? What have you seen before? Is there anything you have never seen before? What do you wonder? never seen before? What do you wonder?**

Let’s pass around the things in this box. For each one, we can gently **feel** it, **smell** and **hear** if it makes a sound when we touch it. *[Pass sensory items around.]*

THINGS TO EXPLORE WITH OUR SENSES

- Olive leaves/branches (or a jar or olives/olive oil)
- Prickly pear fruit (sabar)
- Fresh thyme
- Jaffa oranges (or any oranges)
- Strawberries

Each of these things grows in the land of Palestine. **What do they feel and smell like?**

MAKING A TREE

The people of Palestine love their land and the things that grow there, just like many of us love the places we come from and feel connected to.

As humans, there are things we can do to take care of the land we live on, and make sure it continues to be a good place for plants, animals, and people to live and grow.

What are some commitments, or promises, we could make to the land we live on? *[More prompts: What kinds of things might help the land, or the plants, animals, and people who live there? What kinds of things might hurt the land?]*

[As the group comes up with commitments, write them in the trunk of the olive tree. Then, invite kids to each decorate an olive leaf to add to the tree. As one option, they can draw what they think the land we live on would look like if everyone kept these commitments. Once all the leaves are on the tree, gather around to appreciate it together! Then, transition into the section below.]

INJUSTICE AND ACTION

Sadly, the people of Palestine have not been allowed to live on and love their land in peace. For over 100 years, people have been coming to the land of Palestine from other places. The land of Palestine felt special to these people too, but instead of just living there and enjoying the land together, some of these people wanted to control it and make the people already living there leave. They called the place Israel, instead of Palestine.

Today, the people in charge of the place they call Israel are pushing more and more Palestinian people off of their land. To do that, they are using bombs and other weapons that destroy the land and kill the people, plants, and animals living there.

How would you feel if someone came to the land you love and tried to take it away from you and your family?

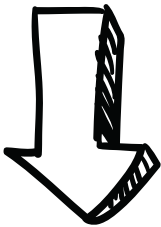
What do you think happens to people when their land is destroyed?

People in Palestine have been, and continue, fighting for their freedom and their land. And around the world, people are speaking up in support of the Palestinian people. Kids can be part of that too!

WAYS TO LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED

- Join a local Families for Ceasefire group
- Learn about Palestinians fighting for their freedom
- Read more about Palestine
- Participate in a demonstration or other event in support of Palestine in your area
- Write letters to our representatives

Educational resources about Palestine for differeng age groups



PALESTINE Books For Kids



@crescentmoonbookstore

Photos



"Almond blossom in Palestine" by Yuri Virovets



"Westbank landscape" by Heinrich Böll Foundation

Photos



"Zion Road, Palestine" by Brian Robert Marshall



"Palestinian Landscape" by Iman Mosaad

Places to find more photos

Palestinian people and others have been posting photos of their beautiful land. Here are a few Instagram posts from people who have shared photos you might want to look at:

[@fadi.f.kattan](#)

[@zaytoun_cic](#)

[@mariamdwedar](#)

Sources

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/8/31/the-fruits-of-palestine-and-their-symbolism>

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/discover/palestine-plants-symbolic-meanings>

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/discover/pictures-gazas-farmers-gather-strawberry-harvesting-season>

Photo links (all CC licensed)

<https://openverse.org/image/e43d7e81-d303-4dbc-bdf8-9d052741d9db?q=palestine%20landscape>

<https://openverse.org/image/3cbaeff7-7c54-44c0-b7d5-b4907ce180bc?q=palestine%20landscape>

<https://openverse.org/image/4941d741-f032-405b-9fad-dee697ceacbc?q=palestine%20landscape>

<https://openverse.org/image/d7f18753-7c65-4472-b129-de5e2ce089ed?q=palestine%20landscape>

SOURCES

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/8/31/the-fruits-of-palestine-and-their-symbolism>

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/discover/palestine-plants-symbolic-meanings>

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/discover/pictures-gazas-farmers-gather-strawberry-harvesting-season>

PHOTOS

<https://openverse.org/image/e43d7e81-d303-4dbc-bdf8-9d052741d9db?q=palestine%20landscape>

<https://openverse.org/image/3cbaeff7-7c54-44c0-b7d5-b4907ce180bc?q=palestine%20landscape>

<https://openverse.org/image/4941d741-f032-405b-9fad-dee697ceacbc?q=palestine%20landscape>

<https://openverse.org/image/d7f18753-7c65-4472-b129-de5e2ce089ed?q=palestine%20landscape>