

Activities

Activity 1

Introducing Israel 101

Preparation

Estimated time: one-half of a class period • **Materials:** Paper and pencil, *Israel 101* Booklet

Background: When self-directed, the process of learning can be very effective. For this reason, it's good practice to motivate students to take an active role in their learning. This activity, which occurs before beginning the Israel 101 curriculum, invites students to ask questions that interest them about the topics that will be addressed.

Activity

1. Tell the students that you want them to ask questions that interest them about Israel. Distribute the “Student Question-Asking Questionnaire” (attached) and tell them to fill it out, with the aid of the Israel 101 booklet.
2. Collect the questionnaires. Organize the student questions into categories and prepare a “question board,” which will be posted in the classroom. Try to address the various questions, when appropriate, during the Israel 101 curriculum.
3. During the final session of Israel 101, return the questionnaires to the students. Discuss with them what they feel they have learned since they filled out the questionnaire.

Wrap-Up: When teachers actively engage students in their own learning (e.g., eliciting student questions and motivating them to take an interest in the topic), students often subsequently learn more and with more enthusiasm. Filling out the questionnaire not only engages students in their own learning, but it can serve as a baseline to help students appreciate what they have learned when they have finished the Israel 101 curriculum.

Student Question-Asking Questionnaire

Student name: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

Date: _____

Name of teacher/leader: _____

Instructions: The following questionnaire is meant to give you the opportunity to express your thoughts, feelings, expectations and questions about the Israel 101 curriculum. As a student, you probably have noticed that when you are engaged in what you're learning, you learn more and have more fun in the process. This questionnaire has been designed – for you and your teacher—to help engage you more directly in the Israel 101 curriculum.

Also, the plan is for your teacher to return your completed questionnaire to you during the last session of Israel 101. It could be amusing (and informative) for you to see your thoughts, feelings, expectations and questions before taking the course, after you have completed it.

Thank you and good luck to you and your fellow students, during your journey on Israel 101!

1. How often do you watch, hear and/or read the world news?

- a. Almost every day
- b. About once a week
- c. About once a month
- d. Never. I couldn't care less
- e. Other:

2. When you do watch, hear and/or read the world news, which kind of media do you use?

- a. Television, especially the following channels (fill in): _____
- b. Radio, especially the following channels: _____
- c. Internet, especially the following websites: _____
- d. Newspapers, especially: _____

3. When I do watch, hear and/or read the world news, I notice that the topic of Israel appears:

- a. Very often
- b. Often
- c. Every once in a while
- d. Rarely
- e. What is Israel, anyway?!
- f. Other:

4. Your associations about Israel. When you think of Israel, what comes to mind?

Write down your free associations.

5. Your questions about Israel. During the next few weeks or months, you will be able to learn more about Israel through the Israel 101 curriculum. Scan the Israel 101 booklet and write down the questions that you would like to answer during your studies. (There are no “right” or “wrong” questions to ask. Anything goes!)

6. Your goals and expectations. What are your own goals and expectations for Israel 101? What would you like to learn or know as a result of your studies with this curriculum?
