

Activities

Activity 2

Israeli Innovations and Humanitarian Program Snapshots

Preparation:

Estimated Time: 1-2 class periods • **Materials:** *Israel 101*, DVD *Israel: Small Country, Big Ideas!*, copies of “Israeli Innovation Snapshot” (attached).

Background: As the DVD and *Israel 101* point out, Israel is at the forefront of innovations in hi-tech and humanitarian programs. The following activity gives students the opportunity to investigate this phenomenon up close by developing “snapshots” for selected innovations.

Activity:

- 1. Introduction:** Tell students that despite its need to devote considerable energy and resources on its self-defense, Israel has developed innovations in many different fields. The purpose of this activity is to have students develop “snapshots” of these innovations.
- 2. Investigation:** Divide the class into groups of 2-3 students. Each group should develop an “Israeli innovation snapshot” using a common template:
 - (a) Field of innovation: Each group should choose one field of innovation, such as Internet technology, homeland security and counterterrorism, agriculture, bio-medical applications or humanitarian programs.
 - (b) Name of company or program: Each group should choose an innovation, i.e., a hi-tech company, nonprofit organization or educational program. Students can choose these innovations based on pp. 16-17 in *Israel 101*, an Internet search, or by consulting the Web site Israel21.com (enter the field of innovation in the search engine and review the results).
 - (c) Description of product or program.
 - (d) Description of what makes the product or program innovative.
 - (e) History and key individuals: How did the product/program develop? Who are the key leaders?
 - (f) Interesting facts or comments.
 - (g) Web sites and related links.
- 3. Presentation:** Each group presents its “innovation snapshot” to the class.

Wrap-Up: Israeli hi-tech and humanitarian programs go far beyond the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel has made significant contributions to the world and could be a model for other developing countries.

Israeli Innovation Snapshot

Instructions: Use the categories below to create your “Israeli Innovation Snapshot.”

(a) Field of innovation (e.g., Internet technology, homeland security and counterterrorism, agriculture, bio-medical applications or humanitarian programs):

(b) Name of company or program: (See pp. 16-17 in *Israel 101*, conduct an Internet search, or go to the Web site Israel21.com—enter the field of innovation in the search engine and review the results).

(c) Description of product or program.:

(d) What makes the product or program innovative? What makes it a valuable contribution?

(e) History and key individuals: How did the product/program develop? Who are the key leaders?

(f) Interesting facts or comments:

(g) Web site and related links:
