

Activities

Activity 3

Comparing the American Declaration of Independence and Israel's Declaration of Independence

Preparation:

Estimated time: 1 class periods • **Materials:** Copies of the Israeli Declaration of Independence and the American Declaration of Independence. (Find the Israeli Declaration of Independence at: www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Peace%20Process/Guide%20to%20the%20Peace%20Process/Declaration%20of%20Establishment%20of%20State%20of%20Israel. See the American Declaration of Independence at: www.ushistory.org/declaration/document.)

Activity:

Have students compare Israel's Declaration of Independence and the American Declaration of Independence. Divide your students into groups of four. Have two students in each group read the Israeli Declaration and two students read the American Declaration. After each pair discusses and summarizes the main points, each group of four will compare these two documents addressing the following themes: (Teacher answer sheet is on the following page.)

1. What do they have in common? What are some differences?
2. Does each document relate to human rights, and if so, how?
3. What principle or law gives each the right to establish its own nation and its independence from Great Britain? (Both were declaring independence from Britain.)
4. How does an analysis of these two documents shed light on common values that these two countries share?

Wrap-Up:

After completing the above activity, students should participate in a class discussion about the above questions.