

Grade

Yom

5



Ha'Atzmaut

ERETZ YISRAEL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR


The Lookstein Center  
for Jewish Education

# A Tale of Two Wars


## 1967 - 1973

DEVORAH KATZ





THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE  
THROUGH THE VISION AND GENEROSITY OF  
**EVELYN AND DR. SHMUEL KATZ** OF BAL HARBOUR, FLORIDA  
AND REFLECTS THEIR GREAT LOVE AND COMMITMENT  
TO JEWISH EDUCATION AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL  
AND WAS LOVINGLY DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF  
JACOB DOV KATZ Z" L  
AND SARAH ROHR A" H



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A TALE OF TWO WARS  
1967 - 1973

GRADE 5

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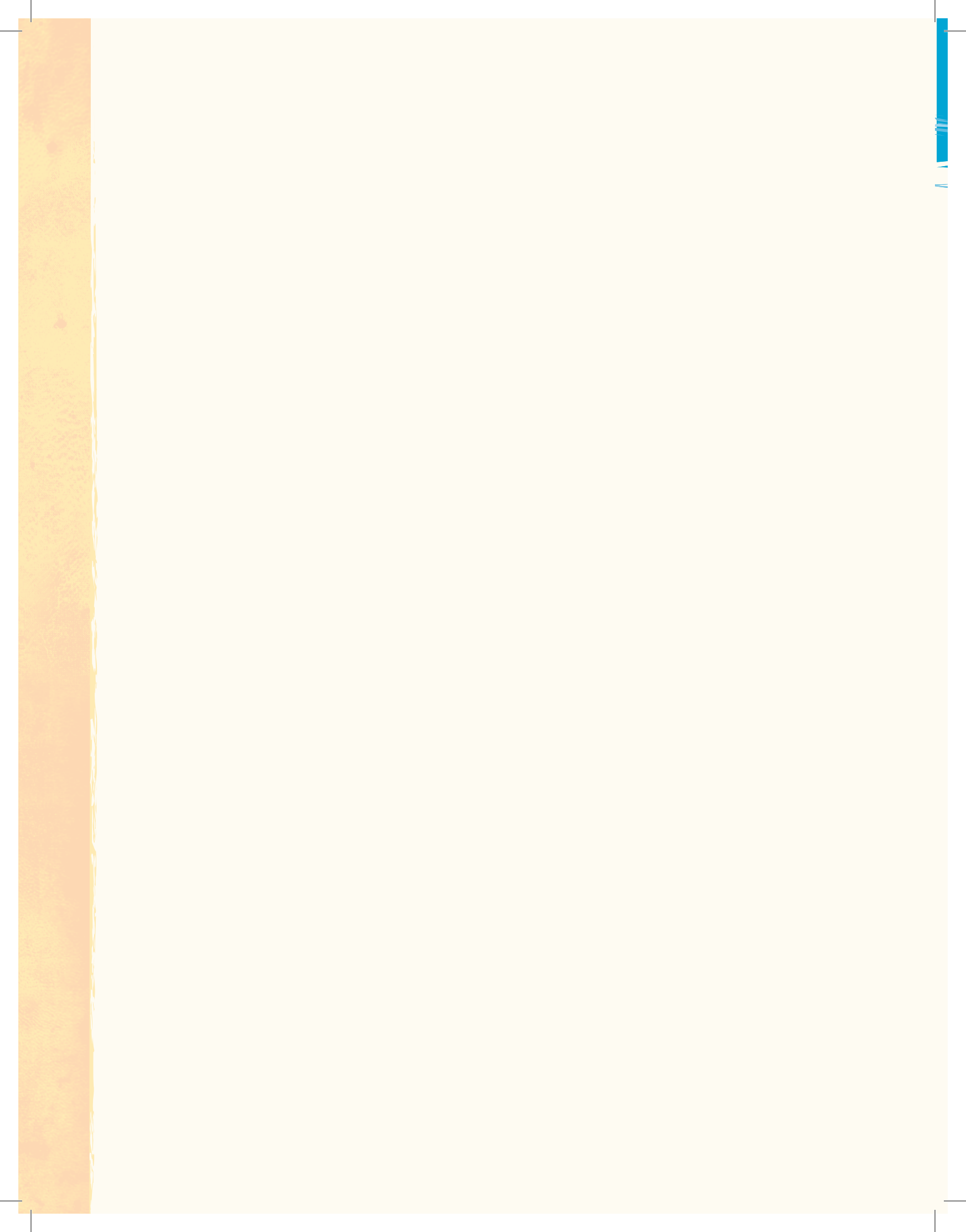
The Ministry of Tourism website (pages 9)

**A Tale of Two Wars  
1967 - 1973**

**Table of Contents**

	Page
<b>Introduction</b>	7
<b>Lesson 1</b>	
Setting the Stage for the Six-Day War	8
<b>Lesson 2</b>	
The War Begins	18
<b>Lesson 3</b>	
Between Two Wars, 1967-1973	33
<b>Lesson 4</b>	
The Yom Kippur War, 1973	39

This booklet is filled with lots of interesting information. If you only have time to study certain sections in class, we invite you to look at the others in your free time.



# INTRODUCTION

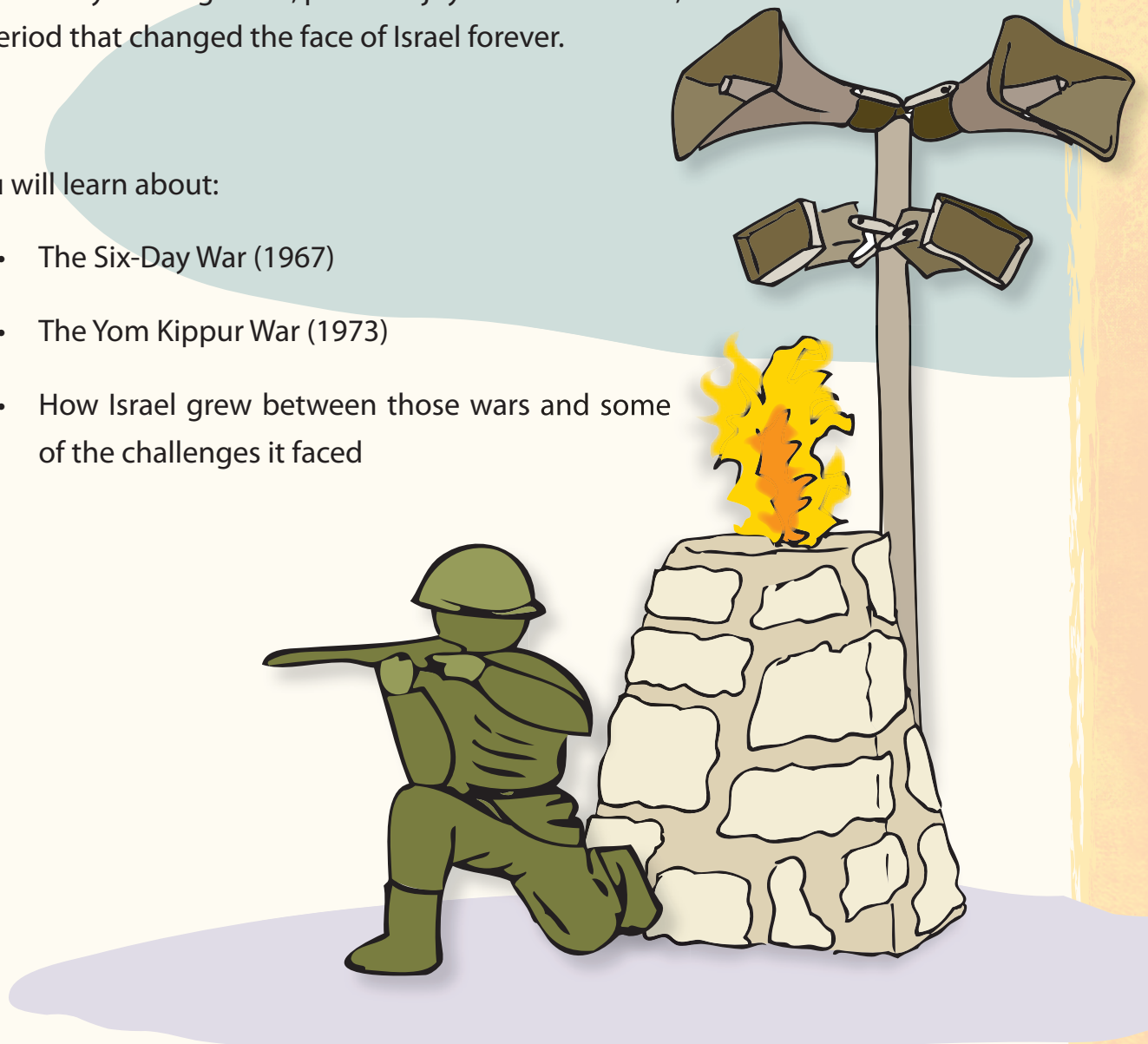
**Dear Student,**

In the short period of just six years, from 1967 to 1973, Israeli history changed dramatically.

Israel fought two major wars, in 1967 and 1973. The years between these wars were years of growth, pain and joy. In these lessons, we will learn about a period that changed the face of Israel forever.

You will learn about:

- The Six-Day War (1967)
- The Yom Kippur War (1973)
- How Israel grew between those wars and some of the challenges it faced



# LESSON 1



## SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE SIX-DAY WAR

In 1948, Israel won its war of independence, however it did not achieve peace. In fact, the Arabs did not even accept Israel's right to exist. They only agreed to a cease-fire. They understood that they could not destroy Israel, so they decided to wait until they thought they could. They waited 19 years, until 1967.

Those 19 years were far from peaceful. Arab terrorists frequently infiltrated the country and attacked its soldiers and civilians. Israel also had to contend with sniper fire, shelling from across the border and a war (1956).



*A house destroyed by Syrian shelling*



*A bus attacked by terrorists*

What's more, Israel's borders were very difficult to defend. Israel knew that another war was only a matter of time.

In this lesson, we will examine how Egypt led Syria and Jordan to war with Israel. But first we will look at Israel's border with Syria and see how one man helped Israel prepare for the battle, some years before the war even began.



*Israel's border 1949-67*



You will:

- Examine Israel's border with Syria - the Golan Heights
- Encounter a true Israeli hero
- Look at some of the events that led to the Six-Day War

## The Golan Heights – Israel's Border with Syria

Living in northern Israel from 1948 to 1967, meant living under constant threat of Syrian attack. Syria had soldiers with heavy artillery based on the Golan Heights; they regularly shelled the Israeli settlements below, making it very difficult for farmers to cultivate their land and tend their flocks.



Israel could not fight back as the mountains of the Golan were very steep and they could not see where the shelling came from. Israeli soldiers could not scale the Heights without being easily spotted by the enemy. How could Israel defend itself against Syria, when Syria controlled this important strategic advantage?

One man, Eli Cohen, Israel's legendary spy, helped answer that question.

## Activity 1

### What is a Hero?

Often we think of a hero as someone with super powers, flying around with a cape and tights. However, heroes can be found all around us.

List five qualities that you think are important for a hero to possess.

Do you know any heroes? Who are they and what makes them heroes?



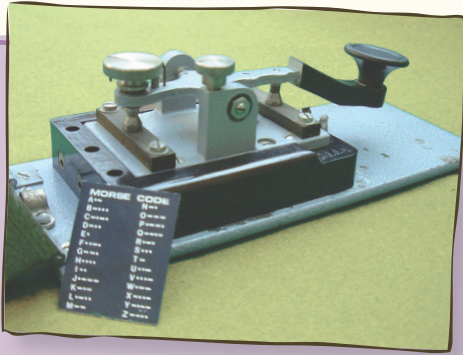
### Meet Eli Cohen, an Israeli Hero

Eli Cohen was born in Egypt in 1924. His parents were originally from Syria and he grew up in a family committed to Judaism and Zionism. In Egypt, Eli was involved in a number of pro-Israeli activities. When his family moved to Israel in 1949, Eli stayed in Egypt working for the Jewish community, until he was expelled in 1957. At the age of 29, Eli volunteered to work for the Israeli Intelligence Services, but it wasn't until a few years later that they took him up on his offer. He began working for the Mossad, Israel's Secret Service, in 1960.

Eli was sent to Syria as an undercover agent. He used the alias of Kamel Amin Tsa'abet, but in the Mossad, he was known as "our man in Damascus."

Eli Cohen, or Tsa'abet, set himself up as a wealthy businessman in Syria. He threw lavish parties and invited Syrian businessmen, politicians and military officials and gave them generous gifts. This, together with his charming personality, made him very popular and trusted within the Syrian elite. Many Syrian officials discussed and shared sensitive information with him, which he





*A transmitter*

then passed on to Israel, via radio, secret letters and visits. At one point, his own brother, Maurice, another Mossad agent, was translating his letters without even realizing that it was Eli, his own brother, who was transmitting the information!

One of Eli's most famous accomplishments had seemingly little to do with spying – it was planting trees. Eli's Syrian army friends took him to the Golan Heights, a closed military zone to all civilians. Few Syrians were allowed up there, yet, he succeeded in touring each bunker the Syrians had built, together with top Syrian officers. There are even pictures of him up on the Golan Heights!



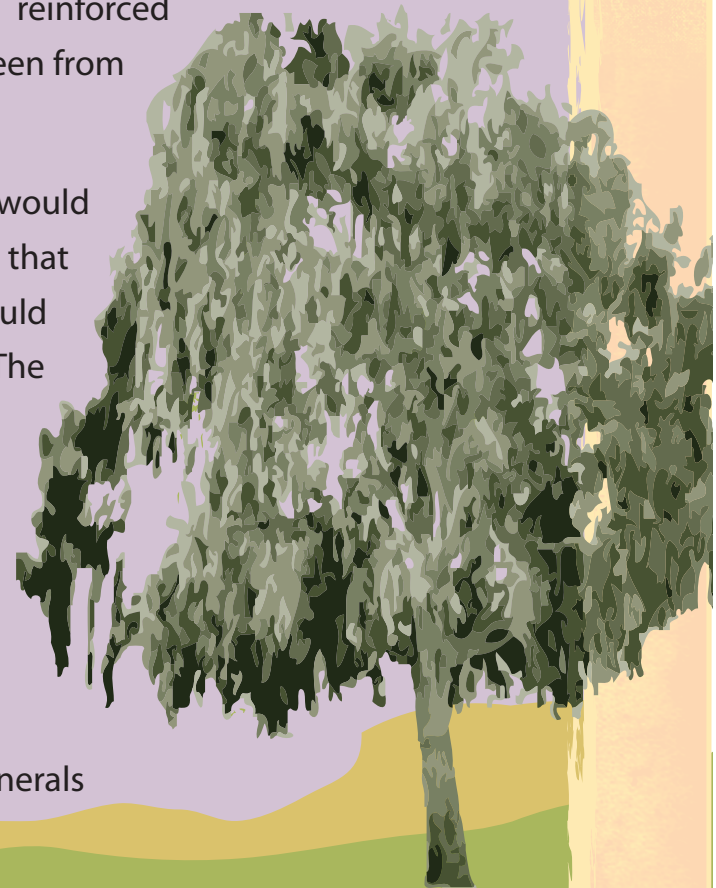
*Eli (center) with Syrian officials on the Golan Heights*

There Eli could see the strength of the Syrian defenses on the mountains.

In addition to having a huge height advantage, the Syrians dug bunkers deep into the mountains which were fortified with reinforced concrete. Moreover, the bunkers could not be seen from the air above or from the ground below.

Eli knew that when the war came, Israeli planes would not be able to bomb the bunkers properly and that Israeli soldiers and tanks scaling the Heights would find it very difficult to locate the bunkers. The soldiers would also be sitting targets.

Eli told his Syrian army friends that he found it difficult to see brave Syrian soldiers suffering so badly from the heat. He suggested that the army plant eucalyptus trees next to each bunker. This would provide the soldiers with shade and enable them to fight better. The generals





thought that this was an excellent idea and the trees were planted.

Eli immediately informed Israeli intelligence. Israel now knew where each and every bunker was. The Israeli Air Force used those newly planted trees as a guide to the Syrian bunkers and was able to pinpoint them during the Six-Day War. If you visit the Golan Heights today, you will still see those eucalyptus trees growing next to the destroyed bunkers.

Unfortunately, the story of Eli Cohen does not have a happy ending. Syria became suspicious that information was being leaked to Israel. Using their Russian advisors, they set out to find the source of the leak. Syria decided to create a period of radio silence – where no radio frequencies would be used. They then discovered and traced the secret transmissions to Eli's home. They broke into his house while he was in the middle of a transmission to Israel. Eli Cohen was arrested and tortured. He was brought to trial but was not allowed to have a defense council. He was sentenced to death. Appeals came from around the world begging the Syrian government to spare Eli's life. Pope Paul VI tried to intervene along with the heads of state of France, Belgium and Canada, but to no avail. Eli was publicly hanged in Syria on May 18, 1965. A large crowd of 10,000 people came and cheered at his execution. His remains are still in Syria. The government has refused to return them for proper burial in Israel.



Even though Eli Cohen died two years before the Six-Day War began, the many coded messages of secret information that he transmitted, were a major factor in Israel's victory and capture of the Golan Heights.



## The World of Israeli Espionage

Israel is considered one of the most advanced countries when it comes to espionage and military technology. Research and find out more about the Mossad or some recent developments in army technology (such as the "eyeball", the "mosquito" or the "fireball").

### Did You Know?

Radio transmissions were not the only way to send messages. In pre-State Israel, carrier pigeons were used to transmit secret information!



## The Road to War

Israel was a challenging place to live in the 1960's. We have already seen that Arab terrorists would frequently attack soldiers and civilians. In fact, in the 18 months leading up to the war, there were almost 120 acts or attempted acts of sabotage and terrorism. Terrorists infiltrated Israel's borders from Syria, Jordan and Egypt. There was great tension on the borders and the Egyptian Army began deploying a massive number of troops in the Sinai Desert.

In 1966, Egypt and Syria formed a military pact and by 1967, the Arab nations believed that they were now ready to destroy Israel once and for all.



*King Hussein of Jordan and President Nasser of Egypt*

On May 18, 1967, Egyptian President Nasser ordered the United Nations peace keeping force out of the Sinai Peninsula. These forces had been placed there in 1956 to act as a buffer to separate between Israel and Egypt. With the buffer now gone, Egypt moved 1,000 tanks and 100,000 troops right up to Israel's border.



On Tuesday, May 23, Nasser closed the Straits of Tiran.

The Straits of Tiran is a narrow passageway only 800 to 1,000 yards wide that reaches from the Red Sea up to Eilat, a city in Israel's south. It is an international waterway, that does not belong to Egypt. Nevertheless, Egypt closed the Straits by placing a gun battalion on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula, denying access to all ships to and from Israel.

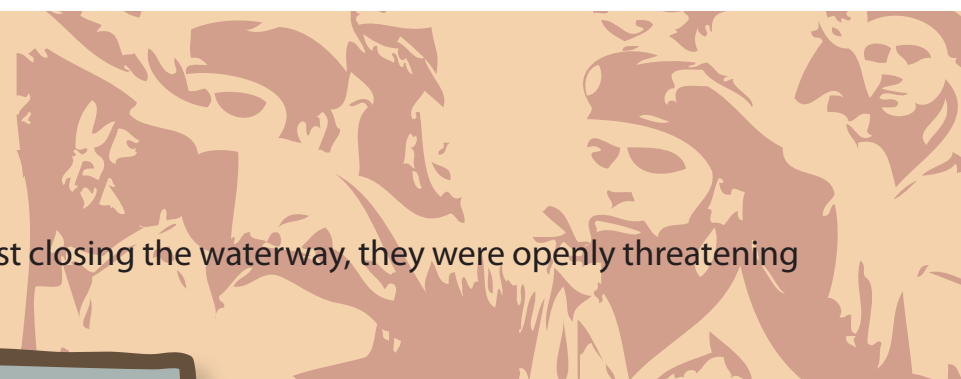


Closing the Straits of Tiran meant that Israel could no longer competitively sell its products to many parts of the world, nor buy basic items such as food and oil that it needed to survive. Egypt's action was recognized by international law to be an act of war designed to strangle Israel.

## Activity 2

### The Straits of Tiran

Why do you think Egypt chose this blockade as a way of “starting up” with Israel?



The Arabs were not just closing the waterway, they were openly threatening to destroy Israel:

**We shall not enter Palestine with its soil covered in sand, we shall enter it with soil saturated in blood.**

*– President of Egypt, Gamal Abdel Nasser, March 8, 1965*

**We will not accept any...coexistence with Israel....Today the issue is not the establishment of peace between the Arab states and Israel....The war with Israel is in effect since 1948.**

*– Gamal Abdel Nasser, May 28, 1967*

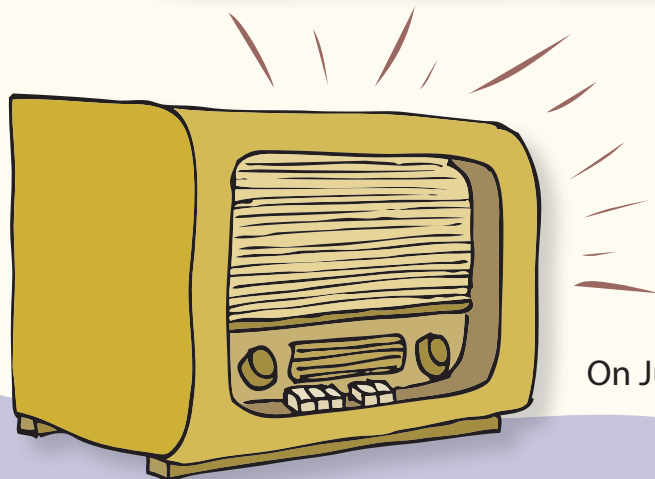
On May 30, 1967, Nasser made a military pact with Jordan, to accompany the one Egypt had made with Syria a year earlier.

**The armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are poised on the borders of Israel ... to face the challenge, while standing behind us are the armies of Iraq, Algeria, Kuwait, Sudan and the whole Arab nation. This act will astound the world. Today they will know that the Arabs are arranged for battle, the critical hour has arrived. We have reached the stage of serious action and not of more declarations.**

*– Gamal Abdel Nasser, May 30, 1967*

**Our goal is clear - to wipe Israel off the map.**

*– President Aref of Iraq, May 31, 1967*



On June 4th, Egypt signed a military pact with Iraq.

## Think About

- How many countries are ready to attack Israel, according to President Nasser?
- What is the overriding intention of Arab leaders towards Israel in 1967?
- Does Israel have any allies in the Middle East?
- What do you think are Israel's chances of survival?
- Can Israel stop the war before it happens?

### Activity 3

#### Mapping It Out

With the Middle East on the brink of war, let's take a careful look at the map of Israel as it appeared in May of 1967.

- What countries bordered on Israel?
- Why was it so hard for Israel to defend itself?



*Divided Jerusalem*

The border with Jordan is even more complicated. It cuts right through the city of Jerusalem. Look at this map of Jerusalem. Can you see the challenges in defending the city in case of war?



It was no secret that war was imminent and that Israel's future was uncertain. In June of 1967, Israelis were tense. There was a real fear that after only 19 years, the State of Israel would be destroyed.

#### Activity 4

##### Fear of the Unknown

Describe a time when you were afraid of an unknown. (such as moving to a new city or starting a new school).

We are often afraid of things we are unfamiliar with.

Is that the same or different than the experience of being in Israel in 1967? How?



In this lesson, we have seen how the Middle East moved to the brink of war in 1967. We also learned about Eli Cohen and how he helped Israel prepare for the war.

In the next lesson, we will learn more about how Israelis prepared for the war and how the war unfolded.

# LESSON 2



## THE WAR BEGINS

In the previous lesson, we saw that President Nasser of Egypt had assembled a coalition of Arab countries to fight Israel and that he had:

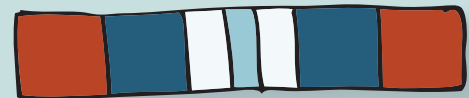


- Forced the UN peacekeeping troops to leave the Sinai Peninsula
- Amassed his army on Israel's border
- Closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping

War was only a matter of time.

In this lesson we will look at:

- How Israeli citizens prepared for the war
- Some of the battles Israel fought with Egypt, Jordan and Syria



## Activity 1

### Looking at a Week

Think about your past week. Make up a calendar of your week – did you go to school? Visit family? Play Sports? What makes up your week?

We will now learn about how much Israel accomplished in just six days.

### Sunday, June 4, 1967

My name is Terry Brown. I am an American journalist who has been sent to cover the current conflict in the Middle East.

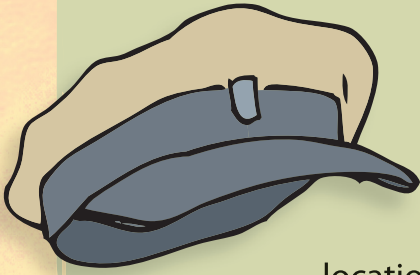
I landed at Lod Airport early this morning and immediately headed for Jerusalem. I spent the day wandering around the city. I wanted to witness what it feels like when a nation faces an imminent war.

For a people threatened with being driven into the sea, the Israelis are strangely calm. They are not panicking. They are getting ready.

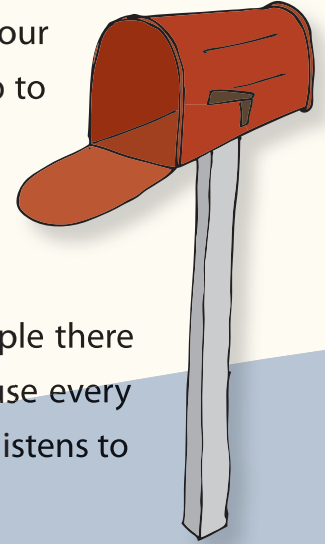


I see many Israelis filling sandbags and putting them on their windows sills. Older men are painting the bomb shelters around the city. Even young children are helping out, struggling to fill sandbags and move them. There are shoppers in the streets going in and out of stores. The streets are not deserted as I thought they might be. However, I do not see a lot of young men. I realize that they have been called up to the army, the IDF (Israel Defense Forces). Today,





Jerusalem is a city of children, women and the elderly. There are very few buses running – most of the buses have been commandeered by the army to transfer troops to different locations and most of the drivers are in the army. Those buses that do come are infrequent and are fully loaded with patient passengers. Most people have given up on the buses and are trying to hitchhike from place to place. The newspapers have been reduced to only four pages, since all the journalists and printers have been called up to the army... and as for the mail, well the mail is being delivered by high school age children, all volunteering to do their share.



As night approaches, I expect the city to close down. It doesn't. I stop at a local café and while the café isn't full, there are people there enjoying the night. You can tell that they are concerned because every hour as the news is broadcast, the café goes silent as everyone listens to the latest reports.



*A teacher and student covering the windows*

The houses tell a different story. The windows have been blackened so that the light inside the houses can not be seen by enemy aircraft. There are candles in



Students painting car lights.  
Sign reads: STOP! Darken your lights

every room and the bathtubs are full of water – in case the houses lose electricity and water. Children are going to bed with their overnight bags packed with basic necessities, should they need to rush to the shelters in a hurry. Car headlights have also been blackened. Everyone is tense and waiting. Large areas have also been designated as cemeteries, in case, God forbid, there would be a heavy loss of life.



## Activity 2

### Joel Remembers...

Joel was eleven years old when the Six-Day War broke out. He remembers it well -

"As an eleven year old watching the evening news on our black and white TV in Queens, New York, I was scared. There seemed to be an endless swarm of Egyptians chanting, 'Throw the Jews into the sea.' How could the tiny State of Israel defend itself against all those hundreds of thousands of Arabs! Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon all lined up against tiny Israel. We prayed and said *Tehillim* – we were scared."

"I so desperately wanted to help, but what could I, an 11 year old boy in New York, do?"

- What do you think you would have done if you were 11 years old in 1967 and living in North America?
- What do you think you would have done if you were 11 years old and living in Israel?

Monday, June 5, 1967

Terry Brown, Jerusalem



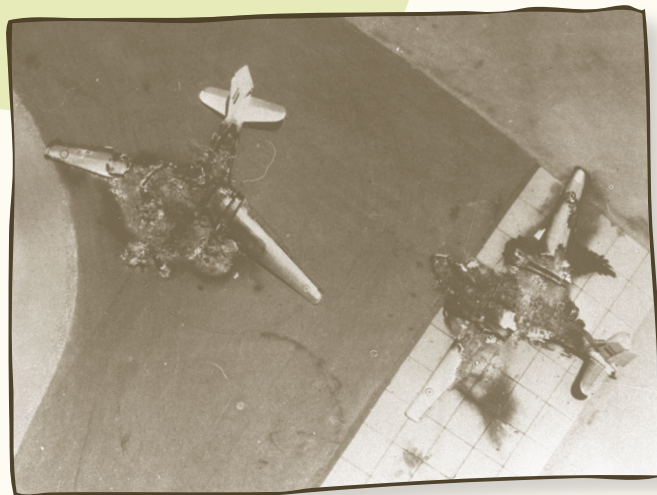
### 8:00 am - War Begins

An Israeli government official confided in me that the situation is grave. He said that the enemy has placed more armor (tanks, artillery and planes) against Israel, than was used in the biggest battles of World War Two.

He told me, off the record, "Israel's only chance of surviving this war would be to strike first in a surprise, pre-emptive attack, which would destroy that armor before it had the chance to destroy us."

As it now appears, that strike began this morning, and events have developed rapidly.

In unconfirmed reports, we hear that at 7:15 this morning, in a swift, sudden and lightning attack, the Israeli Air Force destroyed close to 300 Egyptian jets. The attack was so sudden that the Egyptian planes were still sitting on the tarmac. Their pilots did not even have a chance to take off. Egyptian planes that were not destroyed in this attack cannot even take off, as the runways have been bombed.



Military experts are saying that if this is true, Israel has gained air supremacy and controls the skies over Egypt. This means that Egypt's massive ground forces have little air cover and are open to attack by the Israeli Air Force. However, the Israeli authorities have made no comment.

Meanwhile, Egyptian news stations are making claims of victory. They say that their Air Force has bombed Israeli cities and that Tel Aviv and the Haifa oil-refineries are burning. While their reports remain unconfirmed, there is a fear that the war has escalated quickly. Israel has imposed a news blackout so much of the world's information is coming from Arab sources.



### Joel Remembers...

"We did not hear those reports about Israel's strike at the Egyptian Air Force, as Israel had imposed a news blackout. All we heard was the Arab news stations bragging about glorious victories. We now know that they were lying. But back then, we were desperate. Our rabbi organized a special prayer service and our synagogue was overflowing with people praying for Israel's survival. He himself was fasting. Some people went out to Main Street with outstretched Israeli flags. Passersby dropped money onto the flags. Others demonstrated outside the United Nations, while people like my uncle Nathan, took a plane to Israel. When he got there, he said: 'I am a medic. How can I help?'"

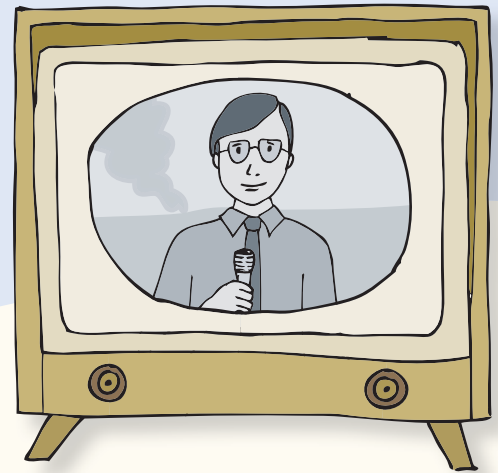
**ISRAEL  
NEEDS  
YOUR  
HELP!**

**ISRAEL  
YOU ARE  
NOT  
ALONE**

**ISRAEL  
WE ARE  
WITH YOU**



**10:00 am** - Reports are coming in saying that the Israeli Air Force is engaged in battle with both the Jordanian and the Syrian Air Forces. Up to half of the Syrian Air Force has been destroyed, while the Jordanians have very few planes left.



**11:20 am** - An Israeli source has told me that there have been intense diplomatic efforts in order to stop the fighting with Jordan, yet I can confirm that fighting has broken out in Jerusalem. Across the eight mile border that separates eastern and western Jerusalem, Jordanians and Israelis are using rifles, machine guns, mortars and tanks to fire on one another. The fighting is intense, and the damage to the city is extensive. Yet, my source assured me that Israel is doing all that it can to stop all-out war with Jordan.

The mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, has been touring the city throughout the day. With little regard for his personal safety, he surveys the damage done to the city while meeting and comforting citizens of Jerusalem.



*Jerusalem under attack*



## Jordan Chooses to Fight

On Monday, June 5, 1967, Israeli Prime Minister, Levi Eshkol, sent a message to King Hussein of Jordan through the United Nations. In it, Eshkol promised that Israel would not attack Jordan unless provoked.

"We are engaged in defensive fighting on the Egyptian sector, and we shall not engage ourselves in any action against Jordan, unless Jordan attacks us. Should Jordan attack Israel, we shall go against her with all our might."



King Hussein of Jordan, however, believed the Arab news reports, that Egypt and Syria were winning the war, and on Tuesday, June 6, 1967, decided to join the war and attack Israel. That mistake cost Jordan eastern Jerusalem and the West Bank.

- Why do you think Prime Minister Eshkol contacted King Hussein?
- Why do you think that King Hussein did not listen to Eshkol's warning?

## Tuesday, June 6, 1967

Terry Brown, Jerusalem

Jordan and Israel are now officially at war. Earlier today, Jordan advanced its troops and captured parts of the no-man's-land that separates it from Israeli controlled Jerusalem. Israel's response has been quick. There are reports of a bloody battle on Ammunition Hill in the north-west of the city.

Israel has encircled the Old City by capturing the Mount of Olives and the areas surrounding Mount Scopus. The order to take the Old City is believed to be only hours away.



*Israeli paratroopers awaiting orders to capture the Old City*

**Wednesday, June 7, 1967**

**1:30 pm** - Terry Brown reporting from the Western Wall, Jerusalem:



I am standing here at the Western Wall, surrounded by joyous Israeli soldiers, celebrating a dramatic victory. Just two days ago, many of these paratroopers were scheduled to be dropped at the Egyptian front. Yesterday, with victory against Egypt in sight and with Jordan attacking Israel, these troops were moved to Jerusalem to support the Jerusalem brigades.



These Israeli soldiers gained control of the Old City of Jerusalem at a little after 10 this morning. Since 1948, the Jordanians have banned Jews from entering the Old



City and praying at the Western Wall. Now for the first time in 2,000 years that Jews control the entire city of Jerusalem. Still dressed in the battle fatigues with their machine guns slung over their shoulders, soldiers swarmed to the Western Wall and spontaneously broke out in tears and prayer. These young men felt the history of the Jewish people unfolding in front of their eyes. Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan, the defense minister, told the troops, "We have returned to the holiest of our holy places, never to depart from it again."

However, together with the joy comes also the pain. Gen. Shlomo Goren, the Chief Rabbi of the IDF, has just recited the memorial prayer for those who died in battle. He cried as he said the words: "In memory of the slain who died in the Name of the Holy One, for the liberation of Holy Jerusalem." Aside from the weeping, there was total silence as he said the *kaddish*, the memorial prayer for the 182 Israeli soldiers that died in the two-day battle for Jerusalem.



*IDF Chief Rabbi General Shlomo Goren blowing the shofar while holding a Sefer Torah*

### Activity 3

#### Following an Ancient Custom

There is an ancient custom to write a prayer and place it in the cracks of the Wall, when you visit the Kotel.

Please write the prayer that you might have written had you been one of the soldiers who helped capture the Kotel in 1967.

A few hours after the battle, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol visited the Kotel. "It is a great and historic privilege for me to stand here at this hour, beside the relic of our sacred Temple and our historic past," he said. "I regard myself as the representative of the entire people, of many generations of our people, whose souls have yearned for Jerusalem and its sanctity."



What did Levi Eshkol mean when he said that he is "the representative of the entire people"? How long have Jews been dreaming of Jerusalem? Why do you think tough Israeli soldiers were crying at the wall?

## Biblical Israel – Judea and Samaria

As a result of the war with Jordan, Israel gained control of areas that were the heartland of Biblical Israel. Together with Jerusalem and Hebron, cities such as Bet Lechem (Bethlehem), where King David was born; Shechem (Nablus), where Joseph is buried; and Jericho, the first city captured by Joshua, once again came under Jewish control.



*Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem*

## Spotlight: Hebron

Hebron is the site of the oldest Jewish community in the world. In *Sefer Bereshit*, Avraham bought a plot of land, the *Me'arat HaMachpelah* in Hebron, to bury his wife, Sarah. Not only is Sarah buried there, but so is Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov, Rivka and Leah.

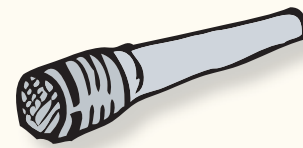
Jews had been living in Hebron for centuries, but in 1929 after Arabs massacred 67 Jews and forced the rest to leave, Hebron lost its Jewish population. In 1967, Israel captured

Hebron and began building a new Jewish community there. The old Jewish Quarter had been destroyed by the Arabs and the cemetery lay in ruins. Jews began moving back to Hebron in April of 1968. Today, over 500 Jews along with 130,000 Arabs live in Hebron.



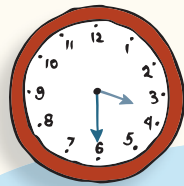
Thursday, June 8, 1967

Terry Brown, Jerusalem



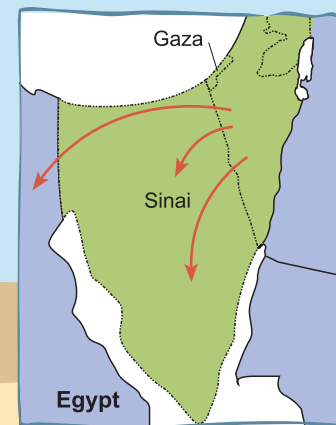
### 8:00 am - The War with Jordan is Over

Israeli troops have now reached the banks of the Jordan River. They have blown up the bridges, which means that they will not cross over and that the Jordanians cannot launch a counter attack.



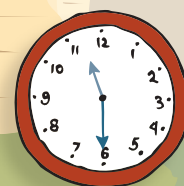
### 3:30 pm - Egypt has Surrendered

Under the command of Ariel Sharon, Israeli southern division troops have moved through the Sinai desert deeper into Egypt. Having lost most of their Air Force at the start of the war, Egyptian troops have managed only minor resistance against the Israeli army. Israeli troops have now reached the Suez Canal, the outskirts of Africa, and have total control over the Sinai desert.



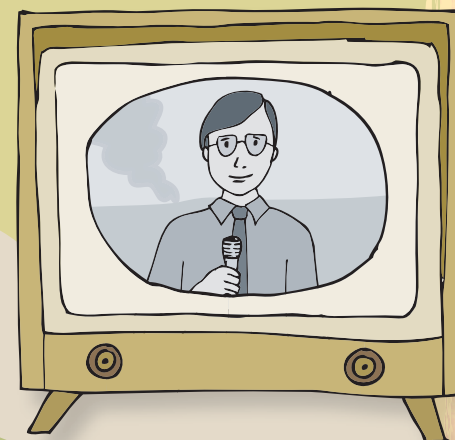
## Friday, June 9, 1967 – The War with Syria

Terry Brown reporting:



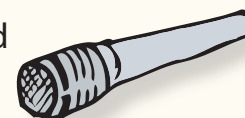
At 11:30 this morning, Israel's patience with Syria ran out. Since the beginning of the war, northern Israel has been under constant bombardment from the Syrian artillery in the Golan Heights.

Although the Israeli Air Force had destroyed most of the Syrian Air Force, the artillery bombardment has continued relentlessly. Israel's planes have not succeeded in knocking out the guns in the bunkers. A military source has told me that Israel has been reluctant to launch an assault on the Golan Heights, as they estimate huge losses in trying to capture it.



However, the generals have now come to the conclusion that the only way Israel can protect its northern communities is by taking the Heights. With more troops available after the successes against Jordan and Egypt, Israel has begun its assault and is climbing up the Golan.

We understand from our Syria correspondent that while Israel's aerial bombardment is not doing too much damage to the heavily fortified bunkers, the Syrian soldiers are finding it hard to defend themselves against the oncoming Israeli troops.



**6:30 pm** – The first Israeli troops have now reached the plateau of the Golan Heights. There is now a desperate man to man battle going on inside the Syrian bunkers.

**Saturday, June 10, 1967**

Terry Brown reporting:

Israeli tanks have now reached the top of the Golan Heights and have found that the Syrian forces have deserted. The Golan Heights is now under Israeli control. However, they have paid a heavy price - 115 Israeli soldiers have died in the day and half it has taken for them to capture the Golan.



In the six days of fighting, 779 Israeli soldiers fell and 2,593 were wounded. In proportion to their populations, it is the same amount that the US lost in eight years of fighting in Vietnam.



### A Week in Review by Terry Brown

6 days – is that all it was? Israel has won a lightning victory. It is incredible to think that just a week ago, Jews were fearful that they would lose this war and lose their State. In just one week, Israel has stunned the world, tripling the amount of land it governs and is being admired as a military superhero. Egypt, the first casualty of this war, has lost both the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Desert. King Hussein of Jordan, after being misled by Egyptian President Nasser, has lost eastern Jerusalem and the West Bank. Once Syria's outposts and aircrafts were largely destroyed, it was possible for the Israeli army to capture the Golan Heights. Most importantly, Israel is now more safe and secure. No wonder



Jews all over the world are joyous and celebrating.



In its various efforts to achieve peace with its neighbors, Israel has withdrawn from over two-thirds of the land it captured in the Six-Day War, Eastern Jerusalem and the Golan Heights have been annexed.

#### Activity 4

Many people claim that Israel started the Six-Day War because it fired the first shots. Why do you think Israel considers this war to be a defensive war?

Can you start a war without shooting?

Many Jews see Israel's victory in the Six-Day War as a sign of Divine intervention, the hand of God. Why do you think they believe that? How do they understand *צה"ל*, the Israel Defense Force's (IDF) role in the war?



We have completed our study of the Six-Day War. In the next lesson, we will see some events that occurred between 1967 and 1973.



# LESSON 3



## BETWEEN TWO WARS, 1967-1973

In this lesson, we will:

- Explore Israel's hope for peace
- Learn about Israel's development between the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War
- Learn about the War of Attrition
- Learn about the tragedy of the Munich Olympics (1972)



After the Six-Day War, Israel was hopeful that the surrounding Arab states would be willing to negotiate for peace. During the war, the Israeli army had taken control of the Golan Heights, Judea and Samaria (The West Bank), the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. They had also reunified Jerusalem bringing both eastern and western Jerusalem under Israeli control. Moshe Dayan, Israel's defense minister, said he was only waiting for a phone call from Arab leaders to start negotiations.

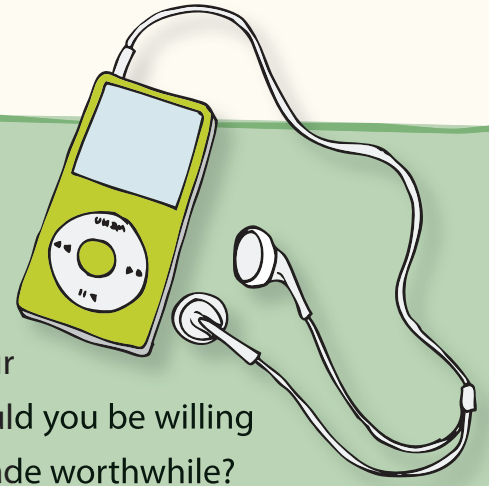


*Israel post-June (1967)*

## Activity 1

### What Would You Do for Peace?

Think about the most valuable possession you have – your iPod? *Tefillin*? A piece of jewelry? Your home? What would you be willing to trade it for? Is there something that would make a trade worthwhile?



At the end of the Six-Day War, Israel was willing to trade some land with the hope that it would lead to peace.

Many Israelis are in favor of trading land for peace, while many others are against doing so. Bring arguments in favor of both of these positions.

In August of 1967, Arab leaders met in Khartoum, Sudan, to decide on how to respond to their defeat in the war. They made three declarations, later known as the “Three No’s”:

- ✘ No peace
- ✘ No negotiation
- ✘ No recognition

Not only would they not make peace with Israel, they would not even talk to Israel. Not only would they not talk to Israel, they would not even recognize Israel's right to exist.



What do you think the Arabs meant when they said that they would not recognize Israel's right to exist?

Israel continued to develop and grow after the Six-Day War. The State of Israel was barely 20 years old, and there was a lot of work to do! New settlements were set up in Gush Etzion and in the Gaza Strip. Communities continued

to flourish in times of peace. Farmers worked on different agricultural techniques that advanced the production of fruit, vegetables and flowers. Scholars were busy learning and developing new ideas, technologies and medicines for the State of Israel.

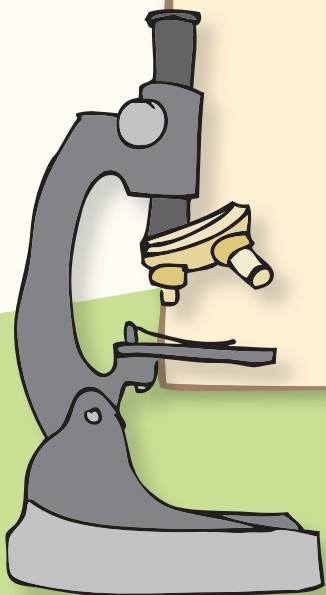


## Activity 2

### Your Idea Here

Imagine that you are a scientist, inventor or engineer in 1968, just 20 years after the State of Israel was born. What sort of inventions or research would you recommend to help the country grow? Here's a hint to help you out: think of something you are excited about. How could you use your skills and talents to help Israel develop?

*My Idea for Israel*



Write or draw your idea in your notebook.

These were years of growth and development for both the State of Israel and the population of Israel. After the Six-Day War, there was an increase in *Aliyah* from the United States, Canada, Western Europe, Latin America and South Africa. There was a great deal of pride in Israel after the stunning victory of the Six-Day War, and many people from around the world moved to Israel. Overall, from 1967-1973, 260,000 Jews moved to Israel.



Unfortunately, despite Israel's comprehensive victory in 1967, the Arabs did not give up trying to destroy the country. In 1968, just one year after the Six-Day War, Egypt began opening fire on Israeli soldiers along the Suez Canal. Israel had to fire back. For three years, Israel and Egypt traded gunfire and air strikes along the Suez Canal in what became known as the War of Attrition. Terrorists also continuously infiltrated into the Jordan Valley. There were many injuries and deaths. The War of Attrition ended in August of 1970, when a cease-fire agreement was reached.



### War of Attrition

Attrition warfare is a long-term limited assault plan that hopes to wear down the enemy by killing and injuring soldiers and destroying morale. It is this type of war that Egypt waged on Israel from 1968-1970.

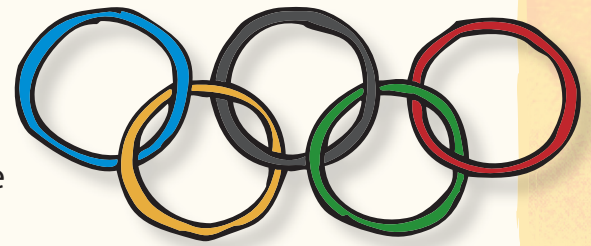
## The Munich Olympics, 1972

As Israelis were starting to get used to living in relative security, terrorism struck outside of Israel in 1972.

The Olympic Games are a sporting event, where countries send their best athletes to compete in exciting competitions. The Palestine Liberation Organization, a terrorist group, saw it as an opportunity to strike at Israel. A group of five armed terrorists infiltrated the Olympic Village in Munich, Germany, and took eleven Israeli athletes and their coaches hostage.

For seventeen hours the terrorists negotiated with the German authorities. However, after a bungled rescue attempt by the totally unprepared German police, the Israelis were killed.

The Germans captured three of the terrorists alive, but released them one month later.



*The Israeli Olympic Team, 1972*

Some people felt that the Games should have been cancelled altogether. However, the Olympic President declared: "The Games must go on," and they did. Some athletes, however, were no longer willing to compete in the Games and went home. Most countries at the Olympic Games flew their flags at half-mast. However, the Soviet Union and ten Arab countries insisted that their flags be flown at full-mast.

Israel felt betrayed by their release. All of the perpetrators and planners of this atrocity were killed or disappeared under mysterious circumstances. It is widely assumed that the Mossad, Israel's secret service, was responsible.

The Olympic Games were stopped while the Israelis were still held hostage in the Olympic Village.

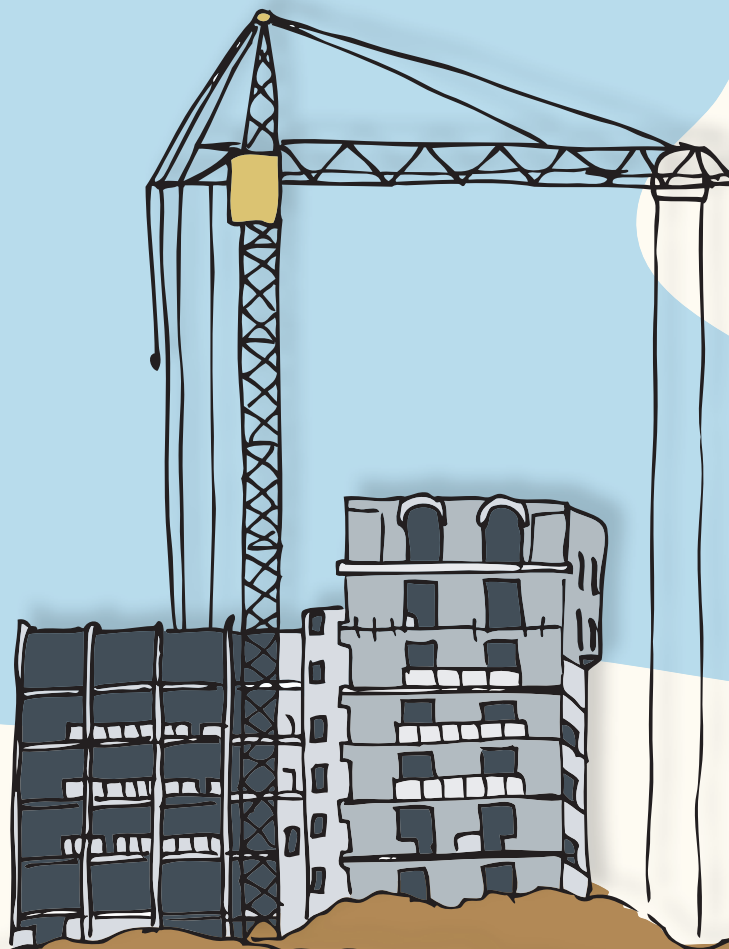


### Activity 3

#### The Games Must Go On?

After the Munich Massacre, the Olympic Games kept on going. Should the Games have been cancelled in respect for the tragedy that had occurred? Was the decision to continue with the Games correct? You be the judge.

Despite some ups and downs, life in Israel from 1967-1973 was a time of development and growth for the country. In May of 1973, Israel celebrated its 25th anniversary. These were times of hope in Israel. Israelis were very self-confident. That came to an end on Yom Kippur of 1973. We will learn about the Yom Kippur War in the next lesson.



# LESSON 4



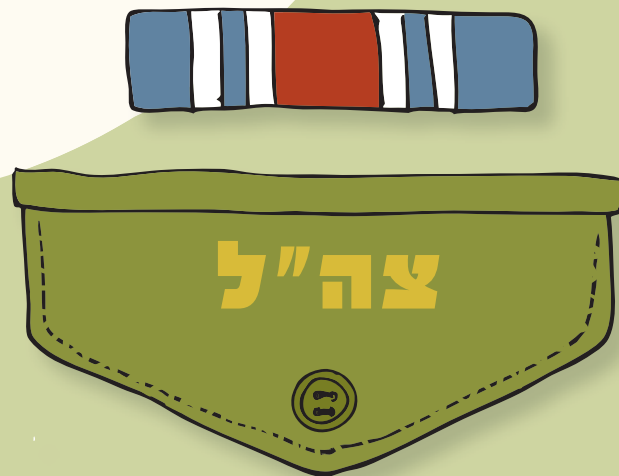
## THE YOM KIPPUR WAR, 1973

In this lesson, we will:

- Explore the surprise attack of the Yom Kippur War
- Learn about Golda Meir, Israel's fourth prime minister
- Consider some of Israel's responses to the war

### Introduction

After the stunning victory in the Six-Day War, Israel thought that the Arabs would be very hesitant about attacking Israel again. But only six years later, on October 6, 1973 at 2 pm, Egypt and Syria simultaneously unleashed a surprise attack. October 6, 1973 was not just an ordinary day in Israel. It was Yom Kippur.



*Israeli soldiers captured by Syria*

## Activity 1

### Thinking about Your Yom Kippur

Write down a description of this past Yom Kippur. Where were you? What did you do? How did you feel?

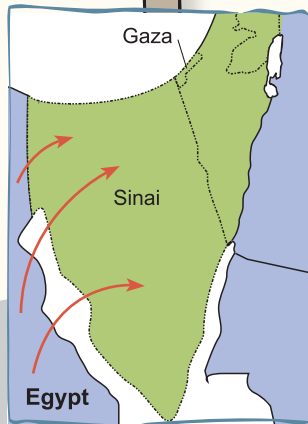
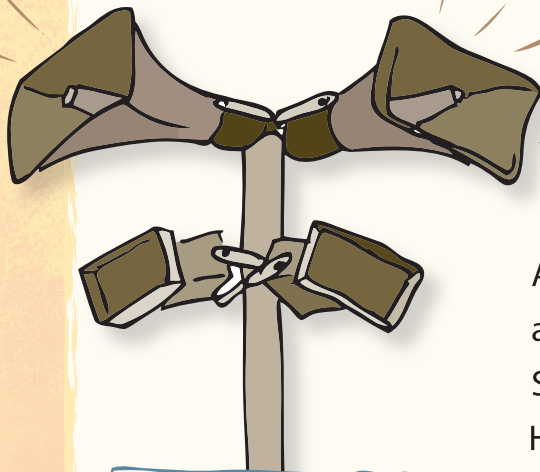


Yom Kippur is one of the holiest days of the Jewish calendar. Jews spend the day fasting and praying. On Saturday, October 6, 1973, most Jews in Israel could be found in their synagogues deep in prayer.

Nonetheless, people noticed that more and more men were being called out of synagogue and not returning. Suddenly, air raid sirens rang out and everyone knew.

At 2:15 pm, the Egyptian Army crossed the Suez Canal and attacked Israel while exactly at the same time, the Syrian Army attacked Israeli positions on the Golan Heights.

Israel had received many warnings that a war was imminent. Yet many experts believed them to be false. Six hours before the war broke out, on Yom Kippur morning, an emergency meeting was held. Prime Minister Golda Meir met with Moshe Dayan, the defense minister and the Israeli Chief of Staff David Elazar. Gen. Elazar argued that Israel must launch an immediate pre-emptive strike against Syrian forces. He believed that Israel should attack before Syria attacked Israel. However, Dayan believed differently. He still believed that a war was unlikely.







*David Elazar*



*Golda Meir*



*Moshe Dayan*

Golda Meir was in a difficult position. Europe was complying with an Arab boycott of Israel and no longer supplying it with weapons. Israel's only friend was the United States. Yet Golda was concerned that the United States would also refuse to re-supply Israel with arms if it began a conflict. Therefore, she ruled out a strike against Syria. However she, did agree to a partial call up of reserve soldiers.

**Note:** America stood by Israel throughout the war and re-armed Israel. It is not certain that this would have been the case had Israel struck first. Nevertheless, Israel paid a heavy human price for not launching a pre-emptive strike.

## Activity 2

### Debate

- Should Israel have launched a pre-emptive strike?
- Your teacher will divide the class according to your opinion.
- Support your position with relevant arguments.

## Golda Meir (1898-1978)

Golda Meir was born in the Ukraine and moved to America as a child. She entered her school without speaking a word of English, yet she graduated as the valedictorian. Soon after graduating, she moved to Eretz Yisrael.

She soon became an important member of the leadership of the *yishuv*, the Jewish community in Eretz Yisrael.

Shortly before Israel declared its independence, Golda was sent on a secret mission to Transjordan to urge the king not to fight against the new State of Israel. She disguised herself as an Arab woman to enter the country and met with King Abdullah. He asked her not to hurry to proclaim the Jewish state. Golda replied: "We've been waiting for 2,000 years. Is that hurrying?"



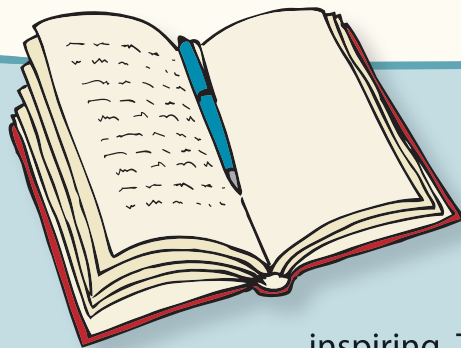
*Golda being congratulated immediately after signing the Declaration of Independence*

Immediately after the Declaration of Independence the Arab countries declared war. Israel desperately needed money to buy weapons. David Ben-Gurion, Israel's Prime Minister, sent Golda to the United States to raise between \$7-8 million. She came back with \$50 million and helped give the army the weapons it needed to win the war.

Soon after she came back from the US, Golda was given the first ever Israeli passport and was sent to Moscow to become Israel's first ambassador to the Soviet Union (Russia). When she went to Shul on Yom Kippur, she was met by thousands of Russian Jews. Normally

they were afraid of the secret police, yet they came just to meet her and shout her name.

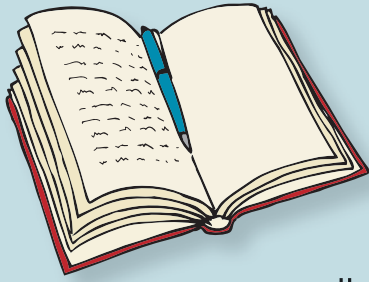
In 1968, Golda Meir was elected the first female prime minister of Israel. She won more seats in that election than any other prime minister before and after her. She won a second election in 1973, but resigned in 1974 because she felt that she let the people down in the Yom Kippur War. Golda died on December 8, 1978.



### Joel Was There...

It was 2 pm Yom Kippur afternoon and the fast would be over in just about four hours. The *tefilla* was inspiring. Together with about 150 other students and teachers of my Yeshiva, we prayed that Israel be granted a year of peace and security. It was at this moment that we heard fighter jets overhead. We knew that the army would not be engaged in routine training on Yom Kippur, but we had no idea that Israel was under attack. Throughout the country, sons, husbands and brothers were called out of Shul.

As the day was drawing to a close and the *shofar* was to be sounded, we heard the news of the joint attack by Syria and Egypt. All of the Israeli yeshiva students were soldiers as well, and they knew that in a matter of hours they would be at the front, defending their beloved homeland – our beloved homeland. We concluded the Yom Kippur *tefilla* with unusual fervor and



then we ran for our radios – even before breaking our fast.

As the evening wore on, more and more of my classmates were called up to serve. As the Egged bus (all buses became army vehicles that evening) arrived to transport the soldiers, they each waved goodbye, but with a nervous smile on their faces. They were sure that they were fighting for the most just cause in the world, the protection of their homes, their families, their people and their land.



### Activity 3

- Why do you think Egypt and Syria chose this date to attack?
- What was the advantage to Israel that the attack took place on Yom Kippur?

While heavy fighting erupted between Israeli and Egyptian forces along the Suez Canal, and Israeli and Syrian forces on the Golan Heights, Jordan resisted pressure to join the war. King Hussein refused Egyptian requests that he join them in fighting Israel.

- After the Six-Day War, why would Jordan be hesitant to enter a war with Israel?

## People in the News



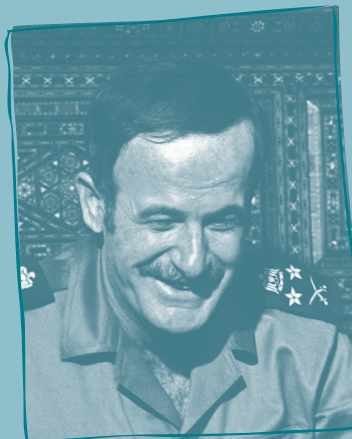
Golda Meir  
(1898-1978)

As Prime Minister of Israel, Golda Meir decided not to launch a pre-emptive strike on Syria or Egypt. Despite Israel's eventual victory, Golda was pained by the loss of so many lives in the war and resigned in 1974.



Anwar Sadat  
(1918-1981)

President of Egypt, Sadat, sent the Egyptian Army across the Suez Canal into the Sinai desert at the start of the Yom Kippur War. Eventually, Sadat made peace with Israel. As a result, he was assassinated by members of his own forces.



Hafaz al-Assad  
(1930-2000)

Al-Assad was President of Syria during the Yom Kippur War. He sent 1,400 tanks across the Golan Heights at the start of the Yom Kippur War. Assad ruled Syria until the day he died. He never accepted Israel's right to exist.

## Activity 4

### Your Yom Kippur *Tefillah*

When people in North America arrived at *Shul* on Yom Kippur, the war was already underway in Israel. Rabbis throughout the world interrupted the Yom Kippur *tefillot* to tell their congregations about the war in Israel.

- If you were the rabbi of a congregation, list three things you would tell the community to do.
- Compose a prayer that you would have added to your *tefillot* on October 6, 1973.

### Fighting in the South

After the Six-Day War, Israel had built the Bar Lev Line, a series of protective walls made out of sand and concrete to defend its border with Egypt. Using a combination of water cannons and explosives, the Egyptians were able to break through the Bar Lev Line. The Egyptian army crossed the Suez Canal and captured most of the Israeli outposts along its eastern bank.



Jews all over the world were shocked after seeing newsreels of the Arab armies being victorious in battle, the large number of Israeli soldiers lost in battle and the sight of Israeli soldiers coming out of the bunkers with their arms raised in surrender – some of the soldiers were holding the Torah scrolls that they had been using on Yom Kippur when they were taken into captivity.



*Captured Israeli soldiers holding a Sefer Torah*

380,000 Israelis were called up to the army on Yom Kippur. Volunteers from around the world, including North America, England and France, dropped everything to join Israel's struggle during the Yom Kippur War. Some foreign volunteers replaced Israeli men in the workforce who were fighting in the army. Others even joined the army.



## Fighting in the North

The Syrian army advanced west across the Golan Heights. At the onset of the battle, 180 Israeli tanks faced off against 1,400 Syrian tanks.

There were many tales of heroism in this war. One worthy of note is that of Zvi "Zvika" Greengold. Zvika was no longer in the army when the war began. He knew that something bad was happening when he heard the Israeli Air Force jets on Yom Kippur. He went for his army radio and his worst fears were confirmed. Israel was at war. He drove straight to his old army base in the Golan and saw many damaged tanks and wounded soldiers. He took a damaged tank and ordered another damaged tank to go with him and they went to the front.



He was soon on his own. He began firing at the Syrians. He would quickly drive to another spot and fire again, making the Syrians think there was a large force. Whenever his tank got hit, he would jump out and go into another deserted tank and carry on fighting, even though he was wounded and had bad burns. One whole Syrian division, approximately 400 tanks, drew towards him. One by one, individual Israeli tanks joined him throughout the day, until he had sixteen tanks under his command.



They kept the Syrians at bay for over 20 hours. By the time reinforcements arrived, his force had destroyed 60 Syrian tanks. Zvika, who had been fighting for twenty hours non-stop, collapsed once the reinforcements arrived and was taken to an army hospital, but soon insisted on returning to the front. He earned the nickname "Koach Zvika," the "Zvika Force" and was one of only six soldiers to be awarded the "Itur Hagvura," Israel's highest medal for heroism.



The biggest irony was that the enemy chose to attack on Yom Kippur, thinking that it was Israel's weak moment - but it turned out to be an advantage. The Arabs believed that since it was Yom Kippur, soldiers would be on leave, the country would "shut down," and everyone would be off guard. In fact, what happened was that since everyone was together, at home, or in the synagogue, troops could be easily located - and the country could mobilize immediately. And since this is the one day that Israeli roads are completely empty - the army could quickly, efficiently and safely transport the troops to the front lines.

Israel was therefore able to stop the enemy advance and launch a counter-attack, turning around its early setbacks.



As a result of the war, Israeli troops penetrated deeper into Egypt and Syria than they had done during the Six-Day War. In the south, Israel had succeeded in crossing the Suez Canal, and its soldiers were fighting Egypt, in Africa! In the north, Israel moved an additional 20 miles into Syria and succeeded in shelling the Syrian capital, Damascus, from its positions.

Israel won the Yom Kippur War. Nevertheless, to this day, both Egypt and Syria claim to be the victors and celebrate on that day.

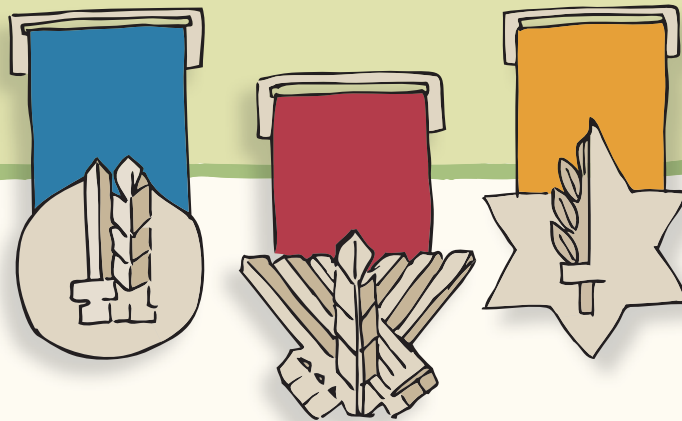
During the war, Israel lost over 2,500 soldiers, a very large toll for a small country. Sadly, Israel learned that they can never be overly self-confident and must always be prepared for conflict.



Golda Meir addressed the Knesset on October 16, 1973. At one point, Golda seemed on the verge of tears, when she said:

“Hundreds of families whose dear ones have gone out to the defense of our people and our country have received the terrible news that a son, a husband, a father or a brother will never return. I have not the courage to try to console them. I can only repeat this truth of ours: They are all the sons of all of us. The pain is that of all of us.”

Prime Minister Meir was very emotional in her speech. By this point in the war, Israel had begun to reverse some of the losses it had sustained, yet Golda was so distressed. Why do you think this was the case?



In these lessons, we have learned about many of the events from 1967-1973. Israel has succeeded in making peace with both Egypt and Jordan, yet many of its other neighbors still refuse to accept Israel's right to exist. Despite all the fighting, Israel has grown and developed into a beautiful and flourishing country.



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