

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

Israel-Syria Engage in New Peace Negotiations, 05/27/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june08/israel_5-27.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. **What did Israel and Syria confirm recently?**
2. **What is Golan Heights and why is it important in the peace talks?**
3. **What countries did Israel seize land from during the Six Day War?**
4. **How do Israelis feel about returning Golan Heights to Syria?**
5. **What is Hezbollah?**
6. **What is Hamas?**
7. **Why do Iran and Syria have such a tight relationship?**

8. Is the United States enthusiastic about the peace talks?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. What are some of the pros and cons if Israel decides to return Golan Heights to Syria?

2. Chose to take either the role of Syria, Israel, or the mediator Turkey. What does your party hope to accomplish in these peace talks? What do you not want to give up or not want to see happen?

3. Research the international policies of presidential hopefuls Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama. What are their stances on negotiating with Syria and other Middle Eastern countries?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.