

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

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

STORY

Israel Strikes Hamas Targets in Gaza, 12/30/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/july-dec08/israel_12-30.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is happening in Israel and Gaza?

2. How many Palestinians have died and how many Israelis?

3. What is Hamas?

4. What was the U.S. response to the attacks?

5. What happened when Israel was declared a state in 1948?

6. What did Israel agree to in the Oslo accords?

7. How did Hamas come to power in Gaza?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Do you agree with Israel's position that they will not stop airstrikes until Hamas stops sending rockets into the country? Why or why not?

2. Should the international community step in to stop the violence, why or why not? If yes, when and how should they take action.

3. Looking at the history of Israel and the disputes over land there, what do you think should happen to increase chances for peace in the region?

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.