

## **LESSON PLAN: SYRIA'S ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

### **PART I: Historical Background**

#### **Student Handout – Syrian Timeline Dates**

**Directions:** In this activity, you will construct a brief timeline showing Syria's ancient history, modern development since WWI, and most recent role in the region since 1970's. Working in small groups, review the various history or current news sources for the needed information. To help you, there are some guidelines as to what to record. Make your date entries complete explaining who, what, where, how and why as appropriate. After your group has completed your timeline you will come together with the entire class to complete the discussion questions.

The following dates should be on your timeline:

- A. 1216 – 1516
- B. 1916
- C. 1919-20
- D. 1939
- E. 1946
- F. 1948-49
- G. 1958-61
- H. 1967
- I. 1970-71
- J. 1973
- K. 1976
- L. 1981-82
- M. 1987
- N. 1989 – (document to help end Lebanon civil war)
- O. 1990-91 – (position on gulf war)
- P. 2001 – (governmental change in Syria)
- Q. 2003 – (position on invasion of Iraq)
- R. September, 2004 – (U.N. resolution is passed)
- S. February, 2005 – (an assassination of a former Lebanese leader)

Discussion Questions:

1. In which of these events does Syria seem to play a cooperative role with its neighbors or the international community?
2. In which of these events does Syria seem to be in conflict with its neighbors or the international community?
3. What patterns are evident in this behavior?
4. Is Syria in a stronger or weaker position now to cooperate with its neighbors and the international community than it was in the 1970s and 80s?