



NEWSHOUR A NewsHour with Jim Lehrer special for students

EXTRA

LESSON PLAN: SYRIA'S ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Syria Timeline Key

1516	1916 – Area ruled by Ottoman Turks
1916	Sykes-Picot Agreement provides for division of Middle East into British and French spheres of influence
1919-20	Syria experiences brief period of independence under King Faysal
1920	Mandate for Syria is awarded to France by League of Nations...French carve out southwestern administrative units for form Lebanon
1925	Druze revolt against the French
1936	Syrian-French Treaty of Alliance...first nationalist government comes to power
1939	Syrian province of Alexandretta, with large Turkish minority, ceded to Turkey
1941	Occupation by British and Free French
1944	U.S. recognizes Syria as a sovereign state (January 1)
1946	French and British troops evacuated...Syria achieves complete independence (April 17)
1948-49	Participation in Arab League invasion of Israel...armistice agreement signed in July 1949
1954	Syria's fourth coup and a return to a civilian rule
1958-61	Union of Syria and Egypt into United Arab Republic
1967	Loss of western portion of Al Qunaytirah Province (Golan Heights) during June war with Israel
1970	Military intervention into Jordan in support of Palestinian guerrillas
1970-71	Military coup...Hafiz al-Assad elected President by public referendum
1973	October war ...Syria and Egypt launch surprise attack against Israel
1974	Golan Heights disengagement agreement with Israel
1976	Intervention into Lebanon under auspices of Arab League-sponsored Arab Deterrent Force
1980	Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in Moscow...Iran-Iraq war begins...Syria breaks Arab ranks and sides with Iran
1981	Golan Heights, occupied since 1967, annexed by Israel
1982	Syrian Air Force decimated over Bekaa Valley during Israel invasion of Lebanon
1987	Syria increases activities in Lebanon, including sending troops into West Beirut
1990	Syria contributes troops to Gulf War effort
1991	Syria accepts principle of direct dialogue with Israel for peace

Source: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/atlas_middle_east/syria_timeline.jpg