

Walls and Borders Final Project

I want to give you a chance to think about what you learned about borders and walls, and to express how it made you feel. Thinking about borders, especially Palestine and the US/Mexico border, can make you feel angry, sad, or lots of other things. So I am giving you choices about what to do. I will grade you on how much thought and effort you put into this final project.

You have three choices:

I. Write a book for children about Palestine.

1. Start with the “Very Short History of the Palestinian/Israeli Conflict.”
2. Highlight or underline the most important points for children to learn.
3. Write a bullet-point list, in your own words, of what you want children to learn.
4. Think of stories to tell that will help them understand. Maybe you want to tell them about Ziad’s mom leaving in a hurry with the key. Maybe you want to tell them about Miras, who lives in a refugee camp in Bethlehem and can’t play soccer outside anymore. Maybe you want to tell them about Khouloud, who couldn’t get past the checkpoint to go to college. Maybe you want to tell them about Nadia, whose family had to leave Palestine so she was born in California. Now she can’t go back to Palestine to see her fiancé.
5. How old are the children you are writing your book for? Make sure you explain things in easy to understand language.
6. Your book should have about 8 pages and a cover, but it could have more.
7. Your book should have at least 4 drawings.

2. Or answer the Final Essay Questions (see next page). Be sure to answer each part of the questions. I’m looking for thoughtful and complete answers.

3. Or write your own essay about walls and borders. Maybe you want to compare the US/Mexico border and the Palestine/Israel border. Maybe you want to compare your own experience with borders to Ziad and Nadia’s experience. Maybe you want to write about your thoughts and feelings about what we learned. Maybe you want to reflect on what we have studied and what you learned about Israel/Palestine before. Maybe you want to write about how other people in the world could help Palestinians have more rights.

If you want to write your own essay, start with an outline of what you want to say. When you are ready to write, make sure you have a topic sentence that says what the essay will be about, and lots of examples from what we learned. Show me what you learned and, more importantly, what you think about it. Have your thoughts changed since we started the unit? Do you have ideas for how to solve these problems?

Your essay should be at least 800 words, but it can be longer.

Final Essay Questions: Borders and Walls

1. We looked at a photo exhibit of 4 walls: the Great Wall of China, the Berlin wall in Germany (which has been torn down), the wall at the US/Mexico border, and the wall in Palestine built by Israel.

- What did you notice about the walls and borders?
- How were they the same? How were they different?
- Do you think it is a good idea to have walls between countries? Why or why not?

2. “The United States has the right of our **manifest destiny** to possess the whole of the continent which Providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty.” --1845, U.S. newspaper reporter

- What does this quote mean?
- What effect did manifest destiny have on Native American peoples living in North America?
- What effect did manifest destiny have on people living in Mexico?
- Do you believe in manifest destiny? Why or why not?

3. “This country [Israel] exists as the fulfillment of a promise made by God Himself.” --1971, Golda Meir, prime minister of Israel

- What does this quote mean?
- How is it similar or dissimilar to the US quote about manifest destiny?
- What effect did the idea of Israel as the Promised Land have on Palestinians?

4. What is it like for children living in the refugee camps in Palestine? As part of your answer, describe what happened to Khouloud (who couldn't get past the checkpoint to go to college) or Miras (who got shot on his balcony).

5. In “A Very Short History of the Conflict in Palestine/Israel” we learned that Jews were treated very badly in Europe for hundreds of years. They had to live in special neighborhoods, they were often killed, and sometimes they couldn't go to college or own land. That's why the Zionists decided that Jews needed their own country.

- What do you think? Do you think that people need their own country in order to have their rights? Why or why not?
- Do you think it was a good idea for the Zionists to come to Palestine? Why or why not?

6. Now there are many Jews living in Israel and many Palestinians who want to come back to their country. How can this problem be solved?