

CHAPTER EIGHT: THE ATTITUDE TO ISRAEL

The State of Israel is not recognized by Saudi Arabia, and this is reflected in the textbooks, as Israel's name does not appear on any of the maps therein, and Israel is not counted among the countries of the region. Instead, "Palestine", or "occupied Palestine", are shown and mentioned. Except for very few cases, names of cities founded by the Jews in modern times do not appear on the maps either. Also, Israeli regions, such as the Negev, and cities such as Haifa and Acre, are described as Palestinian. There are few references to Israel itself in the textbooks - and all of these are negative.

Nonrecognition

The Political Units

The Arab World is divided... into two parts:

1. The Arab countries in Asia which include the states of the Arabian Peninsula (Do you know these states?), Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine...

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 17



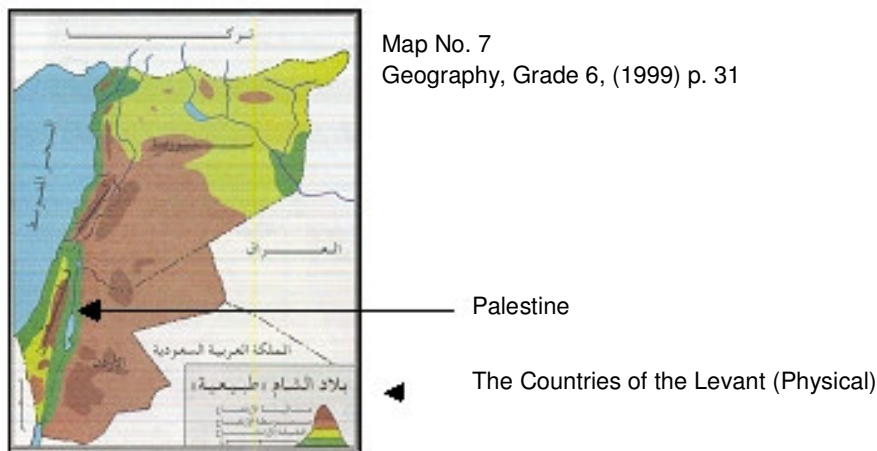
Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 17

Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon compose [one] geographic unit.
Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 44

The Countries of the Levant [Sham]

The countries of the Levant [Sham] are located north of the Arabian Peninsula and east of the Mediterranean and they include: Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 30



Map No. 7

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 31

Palestine

The Countries of the Levant (Physical)

Questions

Look at the map of the Levant [Sham] countries No. 7 and fill in the following empty spaces with the appropriate phrases:

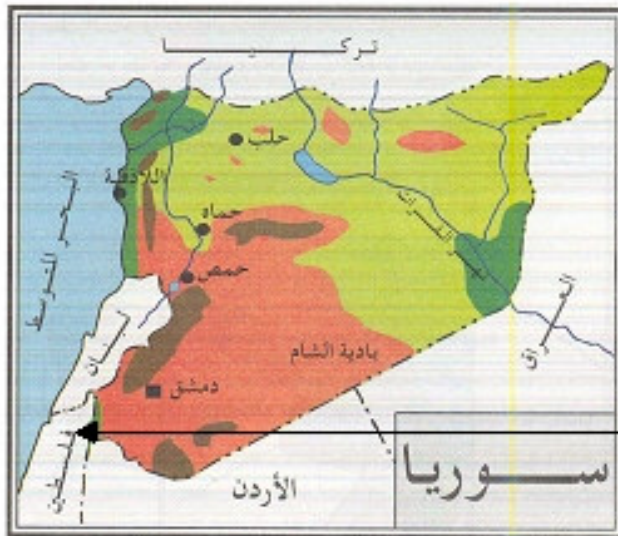
- Palestine and Jordan both face the Gulf of () [Aqaba].
Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 33



Map No. 8
Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 32

Palestine

The Countries of the Levant (Political)



Syria is situated east of the Mediterranean and is bordered... on the west by the Mediterranean, Lebanon and Palestine.
Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 34

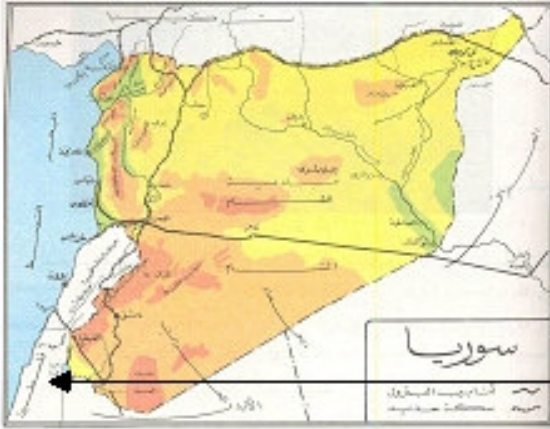
Map No. 9
Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 34

Palestine

Syria

Syria faces the Mediterranean which is located on its west. Lebanon and Palestine are located to its south-west.

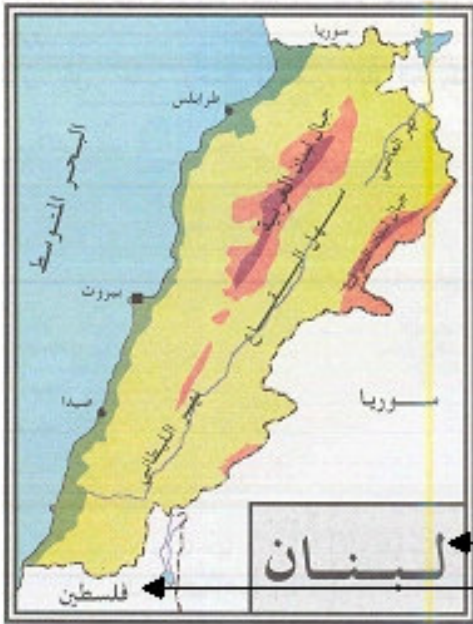
Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 48



Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 49

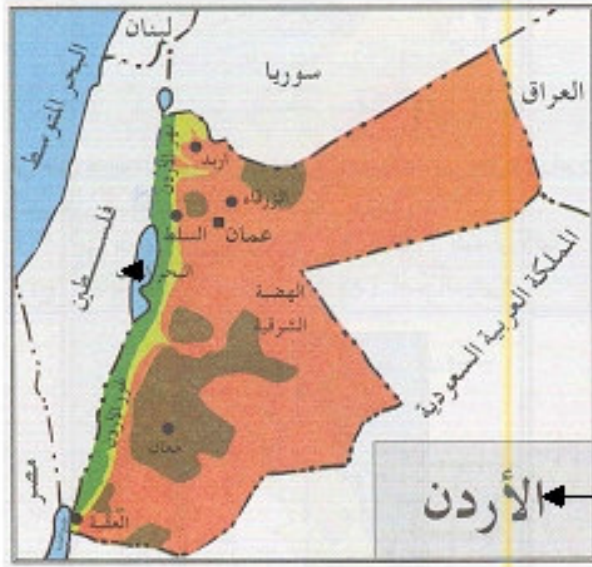
Syria
 Palestine

Lebanon is situated in the west[ern part] of the Asian continent and faces the Mediterranean. It is bordered... to the south by Palestine. See Map No. 10. Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 36



Map No. 10
Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 36

Lebanon
 Palestine



Map No. 11
 Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 38

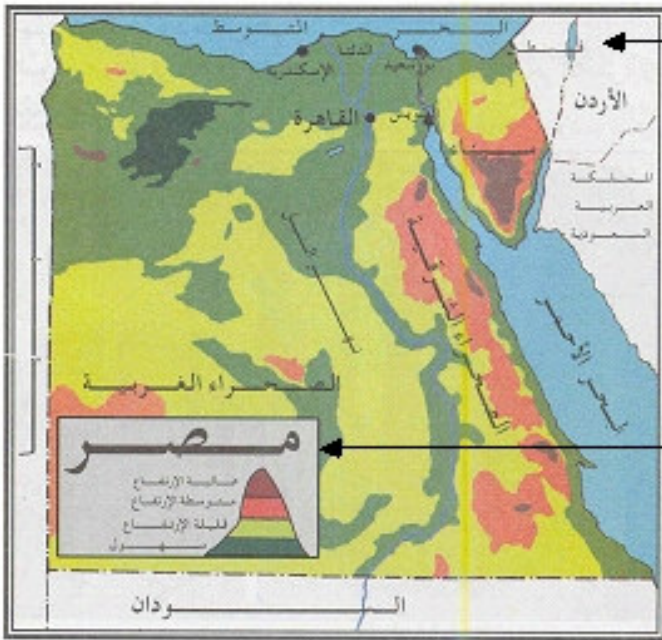
Palestine

Jordan

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p.33
 Jordan is situated north-west of the Arabian Peninsula and is bordered... on the west by Palestine.
 Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 38

As for the most important rivers that flow in the countries of the Levant... the Jordan River [flows] between Palestine and Jordan.
 Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 30

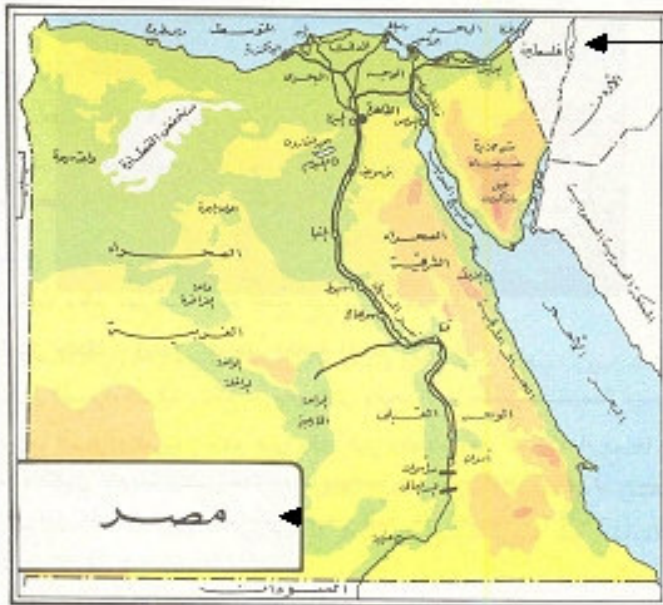
Egypt is ... bordered on the east by... and [by] Palestine.
 Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 46



Palestine

Egypt

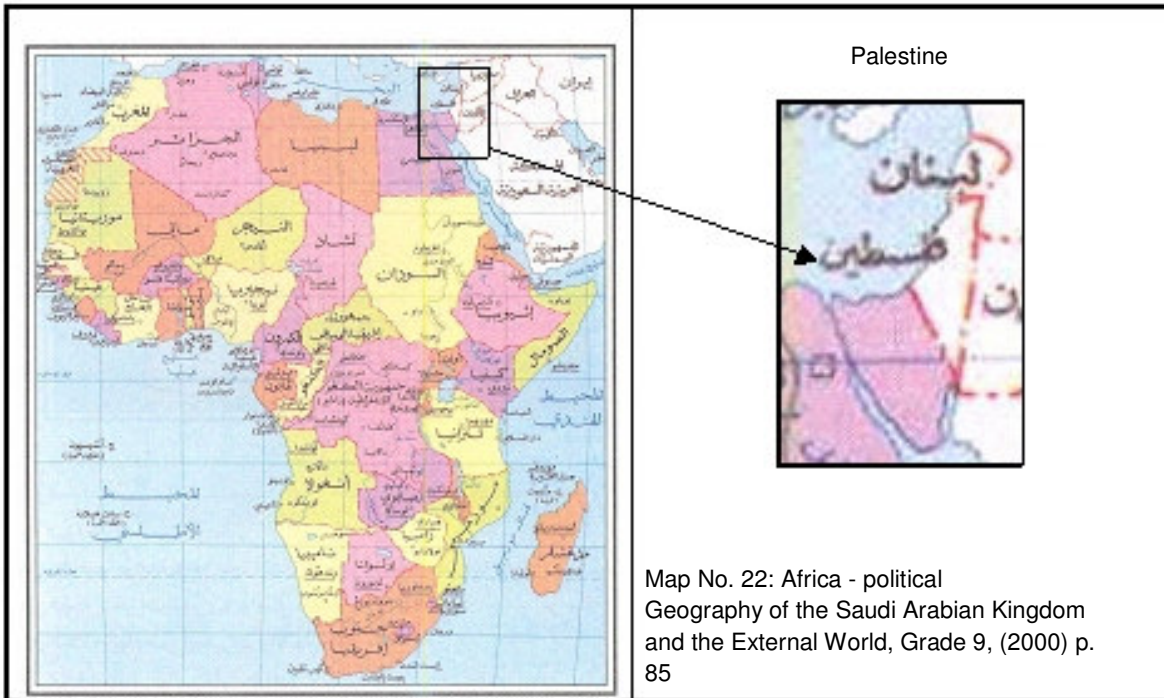
Map No. 13
Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 47



Palestine

Egypt

Geography of the Muslim World,
Grade 8, (1994) p. 52

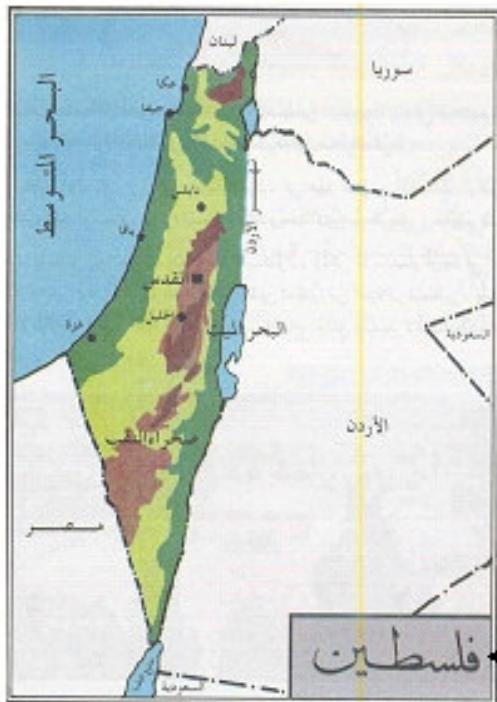


Palestine

Location and Boundaries

Palestine is located in the west[ern part] of the Asian continent. It is bordered on the east by Syria and Jordan, to the north - by Lebanon, on the west - by the Mediterranean and Egypt and to the south - by Egypt and the Gulf of Aqaba. See map No. 12...

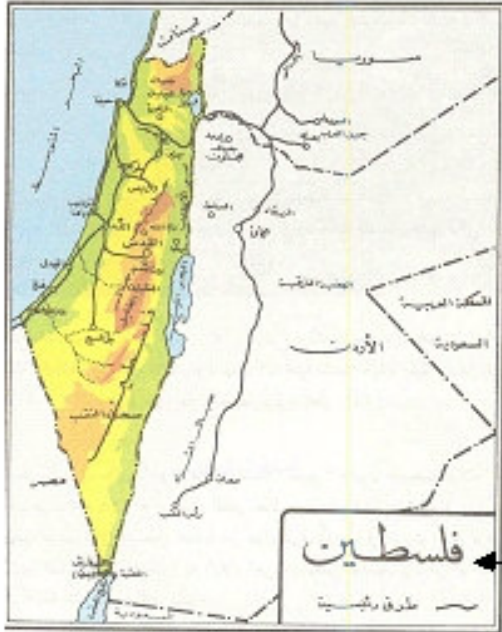
Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 40



Map No. 12
 Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 41

Palestine

Study Map No. 7 and you will find out that Palestine is situated on the [shore of] the Mediterranean and is bordered on the east by Jordan and Syria, to the north - by Lebanon, to the south - by the Gulf of Aqaba and on the west - by the Mediterranean and Egypt.
 Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 44



Map No. 7 *
 Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8,
 (1994) p. 45

← Palestine

Map No. 12: Palestine after the 1948 war
 Israeli territory within the 1967 boundaries is defined as: "Occupied Palestine"



Map No. 12:

← The West Bank
 ← Occupied Palestine
 ← Gaza Strip

Biography of the Prophet and History of the Muslim State, Grade 10, (2001) p. 116

← Palestine after the 1948 War **

* It should be noted that this map does show the Jewish cities of Tel Aviv and Eilat, a rare phenomenon in Arab textbooks which tend to ignore any modern, non-Arab settlement in the country.
 ** The Jewish city of Eilat is shown on this map as well, but not Tel Aviv.

Israeli Regions and Cities are Presented as Palestinian

Palestine's surface consists, in general, of the following:

- Coastal plains⁺ stretching from north to south and growing wider the more we head south. These plains are considered the most fertile parts of Palestine.
- The hill region⁺ in the middle and then the Jordan Valley which is situated to the east of the hills...

And in the south [there is] the region of the Negev⁺ desert which is a height situated to the south of the Hebron hills. It occupies half the surface of Palestine and looks like a triangle. This is a strategic region among the Arab countries because it serves as the connecting link and corridor between the northern Arabian Peninsula and Sinai. The Jews embarked upon establishing their colonies there and made it a habitation for crowds of Jews who immigrate to Palestine.

Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 46

Explain the following:

1. The importance of the Negev^{*} desert.

Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 47

...The Negev desert is in southern Palestine.

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 30

The Most Important Cities

1. Jerusalem^{**} : It is the capital. Al-Aqsa Mosque is there...
2. Haifa^{**} : An important port [city].
3. Jaffa^{**} : An important port [city]...
4. Nablus^{**}: An important city of the hinterland with commercial and scientific standing.
5. Acre^{**} : A city on the coast with historical importance.
6. Gaza^{**}: A coastal city which has a historical importance.
7. Hebron^{**}: A city of the hinterland. The noble Ibrahim Mosque [the Machpelah sanctuary] is there. (See the map).

Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 40

Jerusalem^{**}, Nablus^{**}, Jaffa^{**} and Haifa^{**} are some of the larger cities in occupied Palestine. They are ancient cities each of which has witnessed wars and occupation attempts on the part of many enemies throughout history.

Dictation, Grade 8, pt. 1 (2000) p. 24

Among its [Palestine's] most famous cities as well are Haifa^{**}, Jaffa^{**}, Acre^{**}, Gaza^{**} and Hebron^{**}.

Geography of the Muslim World, Grade 8, (1994) p. 47

Draw a map of Palestine, showing:

1. The borders with the neighboring countries.
2. The capital and three important cities.

⁺ Most of the Negev⁺ desert and much of the hill region, as well as all of the Negev, were integral parts of pre-1967 Israel.

4. The Dead Sea.

^{*} The Negev region in its entirety was an integral part of Israel in its pre-1967 borders.

^{**} The larger part of Jerusalem has been Israeli since 1948, as have Haifa, Jaffa and Acre.

5. The Jordan River.
Geography, Grade 6, (1999) p. 43

Israel's Image

The gangs' state was thus established...
[Literary] Study, Grade 10, (2001) p. 108

Why was Israel implanted in this land?
Reader and Texts, Grade 7, pt. 2 (2001) p. 69

...the brutal Israeli aggression...
Reader and Texts, Grade 9, pt. 2 (2001) p. 81