Muslims and Jews in U.S. seek greater solidarity between faiths

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 05.18.18
Word Count 748
Level 800L

A protest on the border of the Gaza Strip and Israel turned deadly Monday. The area itself is fought over by two groups of people, the Palestinians and the Israelis. The official religion of Israel is Judaism and most Israelis are Jewish. Most Palestinians are Muslim.

On Monday, a group of Palestinians was protesting that the United States was moving its embassy, or government building, in Israel. The embassy was once in Tel Aviv. President Donald Trump asked to move the embassy to Jerusalem. This holy city is often fought over by Muslims and Jews.

During the protests, soldiers opened fire on the protesters. At least 60 people were killed. Thousands more were injured.

Despite the fighting, Jews and Muslims in the United States have been joining together. They are building trust and solidarity between the two communities.
protested an anti-Semitic attack in Berlin. In the U.S., Muslim communities raised funds last year to help restore vandalized Jewish cemeteries.

These efforts come as many Muslims say Trump's words and policies have led to increased threats and attacks against the community. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is a civil rights group for Muslim-Americans. They said last month that Trump has said very hateful things about people of different religions and cultures. This makes other people think it is OK to do this. CAIR said that since Trump became president hate crimes against Muslims have gone up.

The interfaith groups try to keep away from political issues.

Muqtedar Khan is a professor at the University of Delaware. He believes that today's political environment is more likely to unify the two faiths, young Muslims and young Jews.

"They have common ground in seeking social justice in America," Khan said.
C. It's All Connected. Just like the Wilde River affected all the countries it flowed through, in the real world ocean currents affect all the countries on our planet by carrying trash all across the planet. Study this map of ocean currents and answer the questions to find out how everyone is affected.

1) Name three places where trash from the east coast of the U.S. could travel:
   1. ______________________________________________________________________
   2. ______________________________________________________________________
   3. ______________________________________________________________________

2) Find the California Current. Draw a line on the map showing how trash that enters the water in California could end up in Australia.

3) Could trash from Brazil end up in Australia? List the two currents it would travel on to get there:
   1. ______________________________________________________________________
   2. ______________________________________________________________________

4) Could trash make its way from one pole to the other? Number the following steps from 1 to 6 to show how trash might travel from bottom to top.
   ____ It goes up the Norwegian Current.
   ____ It travels along an Equatorial Current.
   ____ Trash is thrown overboard from a ship in the Antarctic Circumpolar Current.
   ____ It gets pulled into the North Atlantic current.
   ____ It circles up the South Atlantic Ocean.
   ____ It travels along the Gulf Stream.

5) Should the U.S. be concerned about trash from China showing up on our beaches?  
   □ YES  □ NO

6) Compare the currents in each ocean. What pattern do they all make?

   Draw it on this scrap of paper:
Adams, Global Issues
NTI days #4-6

For NTI Days 4,5 and 6 please choose one of the following countries: Brazil, Iran, Ghana, India or Germany. Fill out the following questions for 1 country of your choice on each day.

1. Write a paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing the differences in the US and your country of choice.
2. Choose a section (Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Religion or Equality under the Law) and explain 1 difference OR 1 similarity between the two countries for that section.
3. Copy the Region, Capital, Language, population and area below.
India has one of the longest constitutions in the modern world, with 444 articles. It lays out specific rights, much like the U.S. Constitution.

**Compare It: Freedom of Speech**

**The United States Constitution says:** "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech..."

**India’s Constitution says:** "All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression; Nothing...shall...prevent the State from making any law [that] imposes reasonable restrictions on [this right] in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, [or] public order, decency, or morality..."

**Notes:** Instead of saying there should be NO law against freedom of speech, India’s constitution says that the government may pass a “reasonable” law against freedom of speech for several different reasons such as security, sovereignty, public order, decency, etc.

**Compare It: Freedom of the Press**

**The United States Constitution says:** "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom...of the press..."

**India’s Constitution says:** "All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression..."

**Notes:** There is no separate “freedom of the press” in India’s constitution. "Freedom of speech" works double duty!

**Compare It: Freedom of Religion**

**The United States Constitution says:** "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

**India’s Constitution says:** "Subject to public order, morality and health...all persons are equally entitled to...the right freely to profess, practice, and propagate religion."

**Notes:** The Indian government reserves the right to check the practice of religion based on public order, morality, and health.

**Compare It: Equality Under the Law**

**The United States Constitution says:** "No State shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

**India’s Constitution says:** "The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India."

**BUT WAIT! India’s Constitution says:** "It shall be the duty of every citizen of India...to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement..."
Brazil

**Region:** South America  
**Capital City:** Brasilia  
**Language:** Portuguese  
**Population:** 201 million  
**Area:** 3.29 million sq miles

Brazil's current constitution was adopted in 1988 and is the seventh version in the nation's history.

---

**Compare It: Freedom of Speech**

The United States Constitution says: "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech..."

Brazil's Constitution says: "...the expression of thought is free, anonymity being forbidden..."

Notes: "Anonymity being forbidden" means that you have the right to freedom of speech as long as you don't remain anonymous.

---

**Compare It: Freedom of the Press**

The United States Constitution says: "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom...of the press..."

Brazil's Constitution says: "...the expression of thought is free, anonymity being forbidden..."

Notes: Like in India, there is no separate "freedom of the press" in Brazil's constitution. "Freedom of speech" works double duty.

---

**Compare It: Freedom of Religion**

The United States Constitution says: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

Brazil's Constitution says: "Freedom of conscience and of belief is inviolable, the free exercise of religious cults being ensured and, under the terms of the law, the protection of places of worship and their rites being guaranteed..."

---

**Compare It: Equality Under the Law**

The United States Constitution says: "No State shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Brazil's Constitution says: "All persons are equal before the law, without any distinction whatsoever..."

---

**BUT WAIT! Brazil's Constitution says:** "Electoral enrollment and voting are mandatory for persons over eighteen years of age [and] optional for: a) the illiterate; b) those over seventy years of age; c) those over sixteen and under eighteen years of age."

The United States Constitution says: "The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged..."
Ghana

Region: Africa
Capitol City: Accra
Language: English & Akan
Population: 23 million
Area: 238,538 sq miles

Ghana was the first African country south of the Sahara desert to gain its freedom from European powers.

Compare It: Freedom of Speech

The United States Constitution says: "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech..."

Ghana's Constitution says: "All persons shall have the right to...freedom of speech and expression...

[But the government may pass laws that are] reasonably required for the purpose of safeguarding the people of Ghana against the teaching ... of a doctrine which ... encourages disrespect for the nationhood of Ghana, the national symbols and emblems, or incites hatred against other members of the community..."

Compare It: Freedom of the Press

The United States Constitution says: "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom...of the press..."

Ghana's Constitution says: "All persons shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, which shall include freedom of the press and other media..."

Note: The same restrictions for freedom of speech also apply to freedom of the press.

Compare It: Freedom of Religion

The United States Constitution says: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

Ghana's Constitution says: "All persons shall have the right to freedom to practice any religion and to manifest such practice..."

Compare It: Equality Under the Law

The United States Constitution says: "No State shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Ghana's Constitution says: "All persons shall be equal before the law."

BUT WAIT! Ghana's Constitution says:

"All persons shall have the right to equal educational opportunities and facilities and... basic education shall be free, compulsory and available to all."
What Is Judaism?

Judaism has about 14 million adherents called Jews who live in mainly Israel and the United States. About 6 million Jews live in Israel and another 6 million in the United States while over a million Jews live in Europe. The church building of the Jewish faith is called a synagogue and some Jews worship at minyan, a service that is lead by lay people instead of a rabbi.

Judaism is one of the oldest religions still being practiced today and Judaism is the foundation for the two largest religions in the world, Christianity and Islam. Judaism dates back to 1300 BCE, beginning in the ancient area of Mesopotamia which was located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, about where the country of Iraq is today. The founder of Judaism was the prophet Abraham. Following God's command, Abraham moved his people to Canaan, about where the country of Israel is located.

The sacred writings and early history of Judaism are contained in the holy book called the Tanakh which contains 39 books. Other names for the Tanakh are the Jewish Bible or Hebrew Scriptures. The Old Testament of the Bible, the holy book of Christianity, is based on these writings. The Jewish holy writings called the Torah are about the same as the first five books in the Bible.

There are four main divisions within Judaism called Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Hasidic. Orthodox Jews closely follow ancient traditions; Reform Jews look to modernize Judaism while Conservative Jews blend the two viewpoints. Hasidic Judaism began in the 12th century in Germany and re-emerged in Poland in the 18th century. Hasidic Jews live very plainly.

A well-known Jewish symbol is the Shield of David, usually called the Star of David in the United States. The Star of David has six points and is created by drawing two equilateral triangles merged together to make a star shape. Another well-known Jewish symbol is the Menorah, a candleholder with arms. The Menorah has been a symbol of Judaism for 3,000 years.

Americans are most familiar with the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, because it occurs around Christmas. Two other major holidays are Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and Passover.

©www.EasyTeacherWorksheets.com
Name: ___________________________ Date: _______

What Is Judaism? - Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The church building of Judaism is called a
   a. Mosque
   b. Minyan
   c. Synagogue
   d. Cathedral

2. Judaism is the foundation for other religions including
   a. Christianity
   b. Islam
   c. Both a. and b. above
   d. None of the above

3. Judaism began in Mesopotamia near
   a. The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
   b. Palestine
   c. Israel
   d. Turkey

4. The Jewish Torah
   a. Is about the same as the Christian Old Testament
   b. Is about the same as the first five books of the Old Testament
   c. Is also called the Jewish Scriptures
   d. Contains thirty-nine books

5. Which group in Judaism follows Jewish traditions the most?
   a. Orthodox
   b. Conservative
   c. Reform
   d. Hasidic

6. Which Jewish holiday occurs about the same time as Christmas?
   a. Jewish New Year
   b. Rosh Hashanah
   c. Passover
   d. Hanukkah
What Is Buddhism?

Buddhism is the fourth largest religion in the world today, with about 360 million followers called Buddhists who mainly live in northeastern India as well as China, Japan, Korea, Tibet, Mongolia and Southeast Asia. According to a U.S. State Department report in 2004, there are about three million Buddhists in the United States. The first Buddhists in the United States were Chinese immigrants who built the first Buddhist temple in San Francisco, California in the 1850s. The number of Buddhists in the U.S. is growing as more immigrants arrive from Southeast Asian countries like Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Buddhists follow the teachings of Siddharta Gautama, an Indian prince, who is known as the Buddha. Buddhism began around 500 BCE. The Prince had lived a sheltered and privileged life; he was shocked to learn of the amount of suffering that other people experienced. He sought and found enlightenment and became the Buddha, the Enlightened One. According to Buddha, the purpose of life is to end suffering.

There are almost countless sects (groups) within Buddhism that developed as the religion spread across Asia. The first major split in the religion occurred in the first century CE. Theravada Buddhism flourished in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Burma, Laos, and Cambodia while Mahayana Buddhism spread northward to Tibet and Mongolia as well as China, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea. The Dalai Lama is a great spiritual teacher of Tibetan Buddhists. Many Americans are familiar with some of the teachings of Zen Buddhism. With so many Buddhists sects there are lots of religious books that Buddhists read, some of which were written by the Buddha.

Over the centuries, famous statues of the Buddha have been created. Followers of Buddhism will visit shrines where these famous statues are located. Many statues show a seated Buddha but the laughing Buddha is shown standing. Statues of Buddha are popular items sold in the United States.

The most important holiday in Buddhism is the Buddha’s birthday which is celebrated on the first day of the full moon in May. Another major festival occurs on the New Year; New Year’s is celebrated at various times in different countries.
What Is Buddhism? - Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The first Buddhists in the United States were
   a. Chinese immigrants who lived in California
   b. Vietnamese immigrants who lived in Boston
   c. Laotian immigrants who lived in Iowa
   d. None of the above

2. The founder of Buddhism was
   a. Siddharta Gautama
   b. A prince from the country of India
   c. Both a. and b. above
   d. None of the above

3. The term Buddha means
   a. Enlightened Prophet
   b. Holy Prophet
   c. Enlightened One
   d. Holy One

4. The Dalai Lama is the leader of Buddhists in the country of
   a. Laos
   b. Tibet
   c. Mongolia
   d. All of the above

5. Americans may be most familiar with which form of Buddhism?
   a. Zen
   b. Theravada
   c. Mahayana
   d. None of the above

6. The Buddha’s birthday is celebrated on the first day of the full moon in
   a. January
   b. March
   c. May
   d. November

©www.EasyTeacherWorksheets.com
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an international document outlining the rights and freedoms to which all human beings are entitled. First introduced in the General Assembly in 1946, it was adopted during its 3rd session on December 10th, 1948. It is the first ever international agreement on the subject of basic human rights. Two covenants (agreements between the participating governments and their citizens) were adopted in 1966: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. With its covenants, the Universal Declaration comprises what is known as the International Bill of Human Rights.

The Declaration is rooted in the principles of dignity, equality, and fairness. In its introduction and 30 Articles, it outlines the commitments that the now 193 United Nations members are making with regards to the rights and freedoms of all people everywhere. It defines minimum standards for treating people. For example, it states that people should not be subject to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment. It has been a highly influential document, which has inspired over 80 international conventions and treaties, as well as multiple regional conventions and domestic laws all around the world.

However, the Declaration itself is not a treaty and is therefore not legally binding. It was not ratified by the UN member nations; rather, it was approved by the General Assembly, and the UN Charter does not grant the General Assembly the power to make international law. There are many over the past decade who feel that the Declaration has ultimately failed to accomplish its intentions, as certain practices like extrajudicial killing, torture, political authoritarianism, child exploitation, and economic inequality continue to persist throughout the world.
QUESTIONS: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Circle the correct answer.

1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights outlines:
   A. the member nations of the United Nations
   B. the rights and freedoms to which all human beings are entitled
   C. the six main bodies of the United Nations
   D. dignity, equality, and fairness

2. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the first ever:
   A. international agreement on the subject of basic human rights
   B. international agreement forbidding war
   C. international agreement to usher trustee nations towards self-governance
   D. United Nations Charter

3. The International Bill of Human Rights is composed of:
   A. the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
   B. the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
   C. the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
   D. all of the above

4. The Declaration outlines:
   A. the UN member nations' position on human torture
   B. the commitments the UN members are making with regards to the rights and freedoms of all people everywhere
   C. how international treaties and conventions should be written
   D. the powers required to create international law

5. What is one problem with the Declaration?
   A. it has failed to accomplish its intentions
   B. it is the only such agreement in existence
   C. not a treaty and is therefore not legally binding
   D. not every member nation will sign it

© www.EasyTeacherWorksheets.com
What is the United Nations?

The formation of the United Nations (UN) in October, 1945 was a response to the devastation of World War II. The UN is an organization made up of representatives from the governments of 193 countries. These countries have a common goal of promoting cooperation and maintaining international peace. The UN works to prevent conflict, mediate peaceful solutions for countries in conflict, and to create conditions that are favorable to peace. The UN includes the following offices and bodies: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Secretariat, and the International Court of Justice.

A guiding purpose of the UN is the promotion of the protection of human rights. The UN support human rights through both legal solutions and on-site activities like nutrition programs.

The UN provides humanitarian aid. It played a role in rebuilding Europe after WWII. It is now a key player in coordinating relief for natural and manmade disasters that are too extensive to be handled at a local level.

The UN also promotes sustainable development. Sustainable development is development that promotes prosperity and economic opportunity, increases social well-being, and factors environmental protection into decision-making.

Further, the UN takes on the responsibility of upholding international law. This is accomplished through courts, tribunals, multilateral treaties, and by the Security Council, which has the authority to approve peacekeeping missions, impose sanctions, and authorize the necessary use of force to protect international peace and security. Because the UN Charter is an international treaty, UN members are bound by it as an instrument of international law.
QUESTIONS: What is the United Nations?
Circle the correct answer.

1. What is the purpose of the United Nations?
   A. promoting cooperation and maintaining international peace
   B. providing humanitarian aid
   C. promoting sustainable development
   D. upholding international law

2. Which of the following is NOT a UN office or body?
   A. the General Assembly
   B. the International Court of Justice
   C. the Economic and Social Council
   D. the Humanitarian Aid Council

3. When does the UN provide humanitarian aid?
   A. when member nations request it
   B. when legally required to
   C. when disasters are too extensive to be handled at a local level
   D. when ordered by the Security Council

4. Which of the following is NOT an example of sustainable development?
   A. development that promotes prosperity and economic opportunity
   B. development that uses a lot of natural resources
   C. development that increases social well-being
   D. development that factors environmental protection into decision-making

5. How does the UN uphold international law?
   A. through courts
   B. through tribunals
   C. through multilateral treaties
   D. all of the above