

Uncovering the Personal Behind the Historical

Framing This Unit

We can explore Israel from many different angles: Through people who contributed to the country, through historical events that took place in different time periods, or through texts and sources I. In this unit, we suggest connecting to the multiple faces and facets of Israel by choosing personal stories that may resonate with us. Learners will do some detective work and take a closer look at some of the individuals who were involved in the grand historical events that shaped the State of Israel. They will practice taking another's perspective and imagining what others are thinking and experiencing, whether they are leaders and trailblazers or ordinary people just like themselves.

Theme

People behind pictures

Skills

- Personal connection and empathy
- Attention to detail

Group Activity

In groups, look at photographs and discuss the following questions:

- What emotions do you identify in this photo? What are the people in it thinking about or feeling?
- How does the time and place of this photo help you understand the people in it and what they are experiencing?
- What emotions does this photo evoke?
- How does it make you feel as an observer?

Discussion Questions

- Which figure did you connect to most and why?
- What risks did these figures take for the sake of their beliefs?
- What do you think you might have done if you were in their shoes?
- What would you like to learn more about after this activity?

Creative Activity

Write a diary entry from the perspective of someone in the photo or add a thought bubble to the photo.

- Create a WhatsApp chat between two characters in the photo.



- Reenact the photo. Each group chooses one of the primary sources and recreates the photo with attention to the details. The old and new photos can be displayed side by side in the classroom.
- Write a letter to someone in the photo, asking them questions about their experiences, telling them about your life, and sharing your thoughts.
- Put the image in the center of a blank page and create a “sun” around it of associations, thoughts, and questions about the person.