

# HomeTalk

thoughtful conversations for families and schools

Let's talk about...  
**Palestine**

*compiled by Bob House, [www.dialogueworks.co.uk](http://www.dialogueworks.co.uk)*



Image by Jolyne D from Pixabay

**Note to parents/carers and teachers**  
This pack contains links to external websites. Whilst we take every care to make sure these are suitable, you may want to check the content before showing them to children.



To get HomeTalk emailed every week  
message [bobhouse@dialogueworks.co.uk](mailto:bobhouse@dialogueworks.co.uk)

# Parent and teacher check advised

- We've produced this HomeTalk on Palestine at the request of a subscriber.
- We think it is the right thing to do because many young people have shown that they have strong feelings about the situation in Palestine – and that they want to talk about it.
- We know it's a complicated issue that we can't possibly cover fully in a single HomeTalk, but we've tried to be balanced and non-judgemental.
- Our intention is to give you and your students an opportunity to think and talk about what it might be like to live in Palestine or Israel. It's more about empathising with personal experiences than analysing the politics of the situation. Of course, some schools or parents might want to go further and research or discuss more fundamental issues, but we'll leave that decision to you.
- We suggest that you look through the pack to check that you're comfortable sharing it with your children or students.
- We also suggest that you check with your school's leadership that they are comfortable with you addressing this topic.

# The last 100 years in Palestine

- In 1922, after World War I, Britain was given the authority to govern Palestine.
- The non-Jewish Palestinians revolted against British rule several times.
- In 1947, after World War II, Britain ended its control of Palestine.
  - The United Nations recommended dividing Palestine into an Arab state and a Jewish state, so that the Jews would have a homeland after the Holocaust.
  - The recommendation led to a civil war, after which the state of Israel was formed.
  - Gaza came under Egyptian control; the West Bank under Jordanian control and 700,000 Palestinians were driven into exile.
- After several wars and uprisings, Gaza and the West Bank came under Palestinian control in 1993.
- Over the last 30 years there has been conflict between Palestine and Israel, and several attempts to reach a peaceful settlement. These have not succeeded so far.
- You can see more on <https://youtu.be/cphJJZQtx-U> The Israeli-Palestinian conflict explained | CBC Kids News

# Quotes about Palestine



**Nuseir Yassin**  
Palestinian-Israeli blogger

I don't want to make people hate Israel or hate Palestine or hate Jews or hate Muslims.

The metaphor for Palestine is stronger than the Palestine of reality.



**Mahmoud Darwish**  
Palestinian poet

I think freedom for Palestine could be an incredible source of hope for people struggling all over the world.



**Rachel Corrie**  
American activist

# Thinking about Palestine

## Caring thinking

How can people in Britain help people in Palestine and Israel?

## Collaborative thinking

Is armed conflict the ultimate failure of collaborative thinking?



## Creative thinking

What ideas do you have about how to improve life for the people of Palestine and Israel?

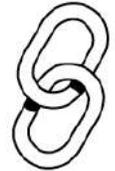
## Critical thinking

Whose fault is the conflict between Palestine and Israel?

How well must we know Palestine's history to understand its issues today?

What will it take to find peace in Palestine?

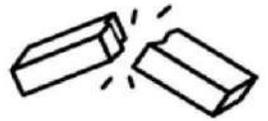
What do Palestine and Israel have in common?



Think **AHEAD**

Think **BACK**

**CONNECT**



**DIVIDE**

**LISTEN/LOOK**

**ZOOM (in/out)**

What divides Palestine and Israel?

Why is it so hard to see the other side's point of view?

How can the rest of the world help Palestine?

What would it feel like to be at school in Gaza?

# Discussion suggestions (age 3 - 5)

## Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/N0XJQ75U4To>

**A Child's Garden by Michael Foreman:** a story of hope among the ruins and rubble of war, in a place that could be Palestine.

## Talking Points

- Why do you think the soldiers destroyed the boy's first vine?
- What is the same about the boy and the girl?
- Do you like growing plants?
- Is hope stronger than fear?

## Activity

- Draw a picture of what you think the boy's school would look like.
- See if you can include some people or things that would make the boy hopeful and happy.

# Discussion suggestions (age 6 - 9)

## Stimulus

Parent and  
teacher  
check  
advised



<https://youtu.be/-cOxmVxOYXA>

### How children in both Israel and Gaza experienced the conflict - BBC News

Nadeen from Gaza City in Palestine and Edan from Moshak Devel in Israel describe what it feels like to live in a conflict zone.

## Talking Points

- What differences do you see between the way Nadeen and Edan live?
- What similarities do you see between the way Nadeen and Edan live?
- Do you think Nadeen and Edan would enjoy meeting each other?
- If you felt frightened, what sort of things would you do to manage your feelings?

## Activity

- Imagine that you are living in either Palestine with Nadeen, or in Israel with Edan.
- Try to write a short journal, or even record a video, of what you think your day would consist of. What would you do? How might you feel? Who would you talk to?

# Discussion suggestions (age 10+): part 1

## Stimulus

Parent and  
teacher  
check  
advised



<https://youtu.be/-Ak6A5gFkdE>

### Air strike on building in Gaza – Al Jazeera

Israeli missiles hit the Jala Tower in the Gaza Strip. This is a building housing television and newspaper journalists, as well as members of Hamas, a Palestinian military organisation. There was advance warning of the strikes, so no-one was killed.

## Talking Points

- Why do you think this building was bombed?
- To what extent did the advance warning make the attack more acceptable?
- Does it matter that this was a building used by journalists?
- Does advanced technology make wars more, or less, dangerous?

## Activity

Imagine that you are having a serious quarrel with someone stronger than you:

- What could you do to stop it getting out of control?
- Who could you turn to for help to bring the quarrel to an end?

# Discussion suggestions (age 10+): part 2

## Stimulus

Parent and teacher check advised



<https://youtu.be/jG8Feqn6Z0E>

### Israel Unrest: Hamas launches rocket attack on Tel Aviv – Sky News, UK

Between 10-18 May, during the 2021 Israel–Palestine crisis, more than 3,440 rockets were fired from Gaza into Israel. Gaza is not far away from Israel.

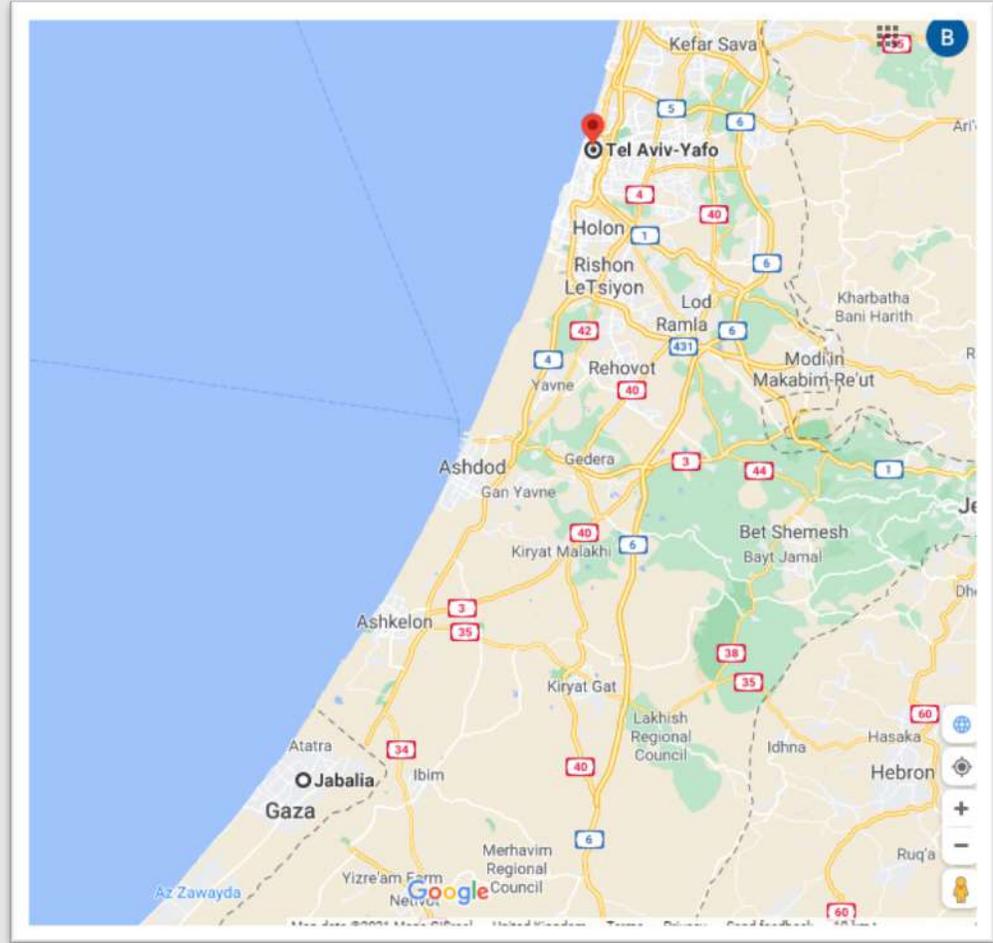
## Talking Points

- What would it be like if rockets were being fired at your home or school?
- How would you try to defend yourself from the attacks?
- Why do disputes between countries sometimes escalate into violence and war?

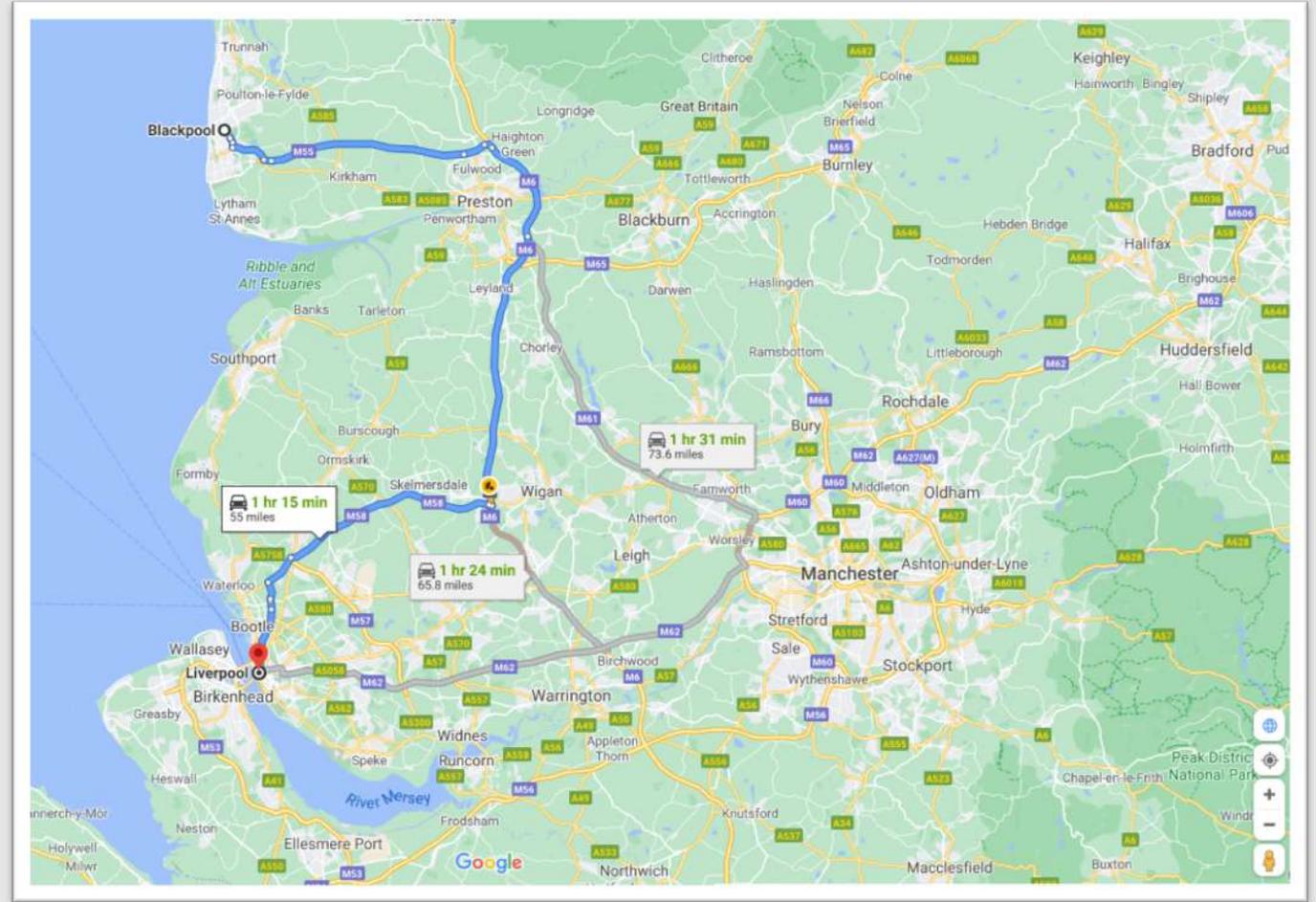
## Activity

- Looking at the map on the next page, make something similar for where you live.
- Imagine what would it be like if rockets were being fired at your town from less than 50 miles away.
- What would you do if you were the mayor of your town?
- Have a discussion about how this scenario relates to the situation between Israel and Palestine.

# A geographical comparison



**Gaza to Tel Aviv – 44 miles**



**Liverpool to Blackpool – 55 miles**

[➤ More about HomeTalk, including previous editions](#)

[➤ Parent Talk Moves – tips for great conversations with your children](#)

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message [bobhouse@dialogueworks.co.uk](mailto:bobhouse@dialogueworks.co.uk)



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# Training opportunities for teachers, support staff and parents

## **P4C Plus Foundation course** (12hrs)

*Teaching that puts more thinking into learning*

- Introduces you to **P4C Plus** and builds your skills over the first year of practice
- Equips you with a range of skills to use in P4C inquiries and throughout the curriculum
- Includes premium resources and teacher guide

## **Thinking Moves A – Z course** (6hrs)

*Making metacognition simple across the curriculum*

- Shows you how **Thinking Moves** can enhance thinking in any subject, as well as in P4C inquiries
- Gives you practical guidance on how to embed Thinking Moves into learning
- Includes premium resources and handbook

Both courses available online or face-to-face, for individuals or whole-school teams

See <https://dialogueworks.co.uk/training/> for upcoming courses

Contact [enquiries@dialogueworks.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dialogueworks.co.uk) for bookings or more information