



## MAIN FEATURE: Crisis in the Middle East (pp. 8-12)

► NCSS STANDARD  
Global connections

*How did relations between Israelis and Palestinians get so fraught? Why is a resolution to their conflict so elusive? What is life like for their young people? Our article, chronology, and eyewitness accounts introduce your students to one of the world's most-troubled regions and the ongoing quest for peace.*

### ■ Israel/Palestine Basics

- **Migration, conquest, dispersal, exile:** These four words can be used to sum up the history of the area once called Palestine—and the people who have moved into it and been moved out of it. When discussing the background of today's problems, refer to the chronology on pp. 8-9.
- **Abraham and the Hebrews:** According to tradition and the Bible, Abraham is the father of the people called Hebrews, Israelites, and then Jews. The account in Genesis says that he left Ur in Mesopotamia after being promised a land by God—the place then called Canaan.
- **Right of return:** When the modern state of Israel was created in 1948, about 1,300,000 Arabs were living in Palestine. According to the United Nations, some 750,000 to 900,000 left or were forced from their homes. Some moved to the neighboring Arab countries of Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Egypt. About 276,000 Palestinian Arabs moved to the West Bank and as many as 190,000 made their way to the Gaza Strip. Thousands of others were displaced during the Six-Day War of 1967. One of the central issues between Israelis and Palestinians is the "right to return" of those people or their descendants—how many of them, if any, and where they would be allowed to go.

### ■ Words to Know

- **Jew:** a descendant of the original Hebrews and Israelites; the name comes from *Judah*, a kingdom of Israel that lasted from 931 B.C. to 586 B.C.
- **Palestinian:** refers to Arabs living in the area of Palestine (today Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip) or descendants of those who dispersed after the creation of Israel in 1948.
- **state:** a political division of people, often used interchangeably with *nation* or *country*.

### ■ Content-Area Questions

#### GEOGRAPHY

1. Which of the two sections of Palestinian territory borders the Mediterranean Sea? (Gaza Strip) Who or what controls that region's access to the sea? (Israeli military)
2. Which Palestinian-held territory is led by Fatah and which by Hamas? (Fatah controls the West Bank; Hamas controls Gaza.)

#### LANGUAGE ARTS

1. What is the origin of the name Palestine? (Conquerors from ancient Rome named the land Palaestina, after the Philistines who once inhabited Gaza.)

#### MATH

1. How long had Israel been an independent country when the Six-Day War broke out? (19 years; 1967 minus 1948)

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## News: Saving Africa's Gorillas (pp. 6-7)

► **NCSS STANDARD**  
People, places, & environments

*All over the world, human activity threatens the natural life of the planet. Many students will find the story of the mountain gorillas a compelling example of this principle.*

### ■ Backstory

The mountain gorillas of Virunga National Park came to the attention of most of the world through the work of Dian Fossey, by way of her book *Gorillas in the Mist* (1983), and the 1988 biopic based on it starring Sigourney Weaver. Beginning in 1966, Fossey, an American zoologist, lived with the gorillas for months at a time, adding immensely to our understanding of

their behavior. A fierce opponent of poachers, Fossey did not endear herself to some local people who, then as now, relied on illegal activities in the forest for their marginal existence. Her murder in Rwanda in 1985 has never been solved.

### ■ Review

What conditions threaten the mountain gorillas of Virunga National Park? (war, cross fire between rebels and soldiers, poachers, destruction of natural habitat)

### ■ Empathy and Argument

Imagine that you are living at the edge of the Virunga National Park. Your family makes next to nothing—

and the little that comes in is from illegal charcoal production. How would you convince your family that you should be preserving the gorillas' habitat? Or would you argue that the family's survival was more important?

### WEB LINKS

- Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund (includes videos): [gorillafund.org](http://gorillafund.org)
- Mountain Gorilla Population in Congo Increases [audio]: [npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=100118056](http://npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=100118056)
- Virunga National Park: [wcs.org/globalconservation/Africa/drcongo/37108495](http://wcs.org/globalconservation/Africa/drcongo/37108495)



## World History: The Reformer: Martin Luther (pp. 13-15)

► **NCSS STANDARD**  
Individuals, groups, & institutions

*Martin Luther was a pivotal force in the history of Christianity. This article introduces students to the man whose beliefs launched the Reformation.*

### ■ Context

Martin Luther's impact on society might not have been so huge without the printing press. This relatively new invention made it possible for written ideas to spread much farther and much more quickly than ever before.

### ■ Words to Know

- **diet (n)**: a legislative assembly of princes or estates.
- **Reformation (n)**: a religious

movement of the 16th century that led to the rise of Protestantism in Europe.

### ■ Rapid Review

- Whose authority did Martin Luther question in his 95 Theses? (the Pope, head of the Roman Catholic Church)
- What was Luther's objection to the selling of indulgences? (that people should earn pardon or forgiveness by their own deeds and words, not by paying money)
- What was the Diet of Worms? (a meeting held in the city of Worms, Germany, before which Martin Luther was called to recant his writings against the Church)

### ■ Words' Worth

- **Catholic**: from the Greek word *katholikos*, meaning "universal" or "general" (from *kata*, by or according to; *holos*, whole).
- **Protestant**: from the verb *to protest*. The word *protest* comes to English by way of the Latin term *protestari*, meaning "to call forth" (*pro-*, forth; *testari*, to call).

### WEB LINKS

- Comparison charts of Christian denominations: [religionfacts.com/christianity/denominations/comparison\\_charts.htm](http://religionfacts.com/christianity/denominations/comparison_charts.htm)
- The 95 Theses: [theopedia.com/95\\_theses](http://theopedia.com/95_theses)