



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

UN General Assembly Tally Sheet for Partition Plan 1947

Background:

On 29 November 1947 the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition British-mandate Palestine to allow for the creation of two states, one Jewish and one Arab. The final vote was dramatically in favor of the plan: 33 countries voted yes, 13 countries voted no, and 10 abstained, including Britain. Included in the pdf is both a complete tally sheet and a blank one for you to download and print.

General Guiding Questions:

- What type of document is this?
- What was happening during the time the text was created?
- Who is the intended audience?
- What ideas are expressed? What does the text suggest?
- What feelings does this text raise? What emotions does it stir up?
- How does the perspective of this text compare with others around the same time and topic?
- What questions does this text raise? What don't we know about this source?
- How does this text impact your understanding or perspective on the historical context or event? How does this text fit into or alter your existing interpretation of the past?

Specific Guiding Questions:

- What is the role of the United Nations then and now? Why did the UN call for a vote on the issue of the land of Palestine?
- What happened after the vote (immediately, days, weeks, months)?
- How does the outcome of the vote affect the next events? What do you think might have happened if the vote went a different way?

- What was the Partition Plan? How did it divide the land of Palestine? What was the purpose of the plan?

Possible Activities:

1. Using a historically accurate map and color-coded pins/pencils, locate all the countries that were a part of the UN vote. Use one color to indicate the countries that voted yes, another for no, and a third for abstain. Discuss how the location of each country may or may not have affected its vote.
2. Re-enact the UN vote by assigning each person (or in small groups) a country. Have each group research their assigned country and in addition to stating their vote, also state a reason for the vote.
3. Prior to discussing the UN vote for Partition, watch a video of the actual vote at the United Nations. Tally the votes on the blank roll-call form. Then discuss the process and outcome.
4. Examine other documents (such as newspaper and radio reports, press releases, letters etc.) that describe the reaction to the vote (both positive and negative). Compare the reactions to the vote tally.
5. Divide the participants into groups and create an announcement about the UN vote. Groups can be assigned a country/position to represent and prepare a news article, radio announcement, press release based on the position assigned.