

Text

Declaration of Independence

מגילת העצמאות

Since October 7th, it has become clear that there are masses of people worldwide who do not accept the State of Israel's legitimacy. Calls of "From the River to the Sea" imply that all of the Land is occupied and that Israel has no right to exist. These calls ignore Israel's 140 years of nation building, its 75 years of national sovereignty, and all the norms of international law. It also denies the Jewish people's origins—the word "Jew" means "from the kingdom of Judah"—and the fact that Jews have maintained an unbroken presence in the Land for 3000 years. Yom Haatzmaut is a perfect time for students to read the text of Israel's declaration of independence so that they better understand and can assert Israel's right to exist.

"Recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable. This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State. Accordingly we, members of the People's Council, representatives of the Jewish Community of Eretz-Israel and of the Zionist Movement, are here assembled on the day of the termination of the British Mandate over Eretz-Israel and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel."

[Full text](#)

Activity Idea:

There are many activities that can be done with the text of the Declaration of Independence:

1. Divide the document into multiple sections and assign different groups of students one section to analyze and summarize for the rest of the class.
2. The entire document can be read and students can be asked to highlight key words or to extrapolate key themes and values.
3. Students can be tasked to first write their own declaration and only then compare it to the historical one.
4. Students can also listen to David Ben Gurion's original [reading](#) of the text or to the declaration being read in traditional [trope](#).