

Lesson 1: Introduction and Orientation

Objective: Meet the students, calibrate knowledge and attitudes, set the agenda and tone, and generate interest and excitement.

What to Bring

- Copies for each student: Handouts 1.3, 1.5a, 1.7a, 1.7b
 - One copy of answer key 1.5b, map 1.5c
 - One copy each of flyers 1.3a-1.3t
 - Tape for interactive quiz
-

1.1. Introductions

Go around the room, each student (and the instructor) says:

- Name and school
- One personal fact
- Personal connection to Israel, if any (family, travel, etc.)

1.2. Why study Israel?

- Discussion: Why are we here? Why does the synagogue offer this class?

1.3. What do we know? What do we hope to learn?

- Distribute handout 1.3, ask students to take two minutes to fill it out and return (can be anonymous)

1.4. Conceptual map

- Draw a circle on the white board, labeled “Israel.” Ask students for free associations: What comes to mind? Brainstorm and list attributes, grouped or connected as appropriate.

1.5. Where in the world?

- Distribute blank map (1.5a), ask students to fill in as many country names as they can
- Go over the map together, complete all country names (1.5b)
- Give a perspective of scale: How large is Israel? (1.5c)

1.6. Interactive Quiz

What do the students know about Israel? Ask a question, post four answers on four corners of the room (1.6a-1.6t, ask students to stand under the answer they think is correct. Give correct answers (bold).

- Approximately how many people live in Israel?
 - 4.5 million
 - **7.5 million**
 - 12 million
 - 20 million
- What is/are Israel's official language(s)
 - Hebrew
 - **Hebrew and Arabic**
 - Hebrew, Arabic, and Russian
 - Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, English and Amharic [what is Amharic? Language spoken in Ethiopia and by Ethiopian Jews in Israel]
- How old is the city of Jerusalem?
 - About 150 years
 - About 450 years
 - About 1,100 years
 - **About 3,000 years**
- Who founded the Zionist movement?
 - **Theodore Herzl**
 - Yitzhak Rabin
 - Yasser Arafat
 - Lord Arthur Balfour
- Who is the current prime minister of Israel?
 - Ehud Barak
 - Ariel Sharon
 - **Benjamin Netanyahu**
 - Shimon Peres

1.7. Outline and timeline

- Distribute timeline (1.7a). Explain non-linear scale, “BCE” and “CE.” This timeline will be used in future classes; “You Are Here” will move depending on the specific topic or timeframe discussed.
- Distribute class outline (1.7b)

Name: _____

Some Things I Know about Israel:

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

Some Things I'd Like to Know about Israel:

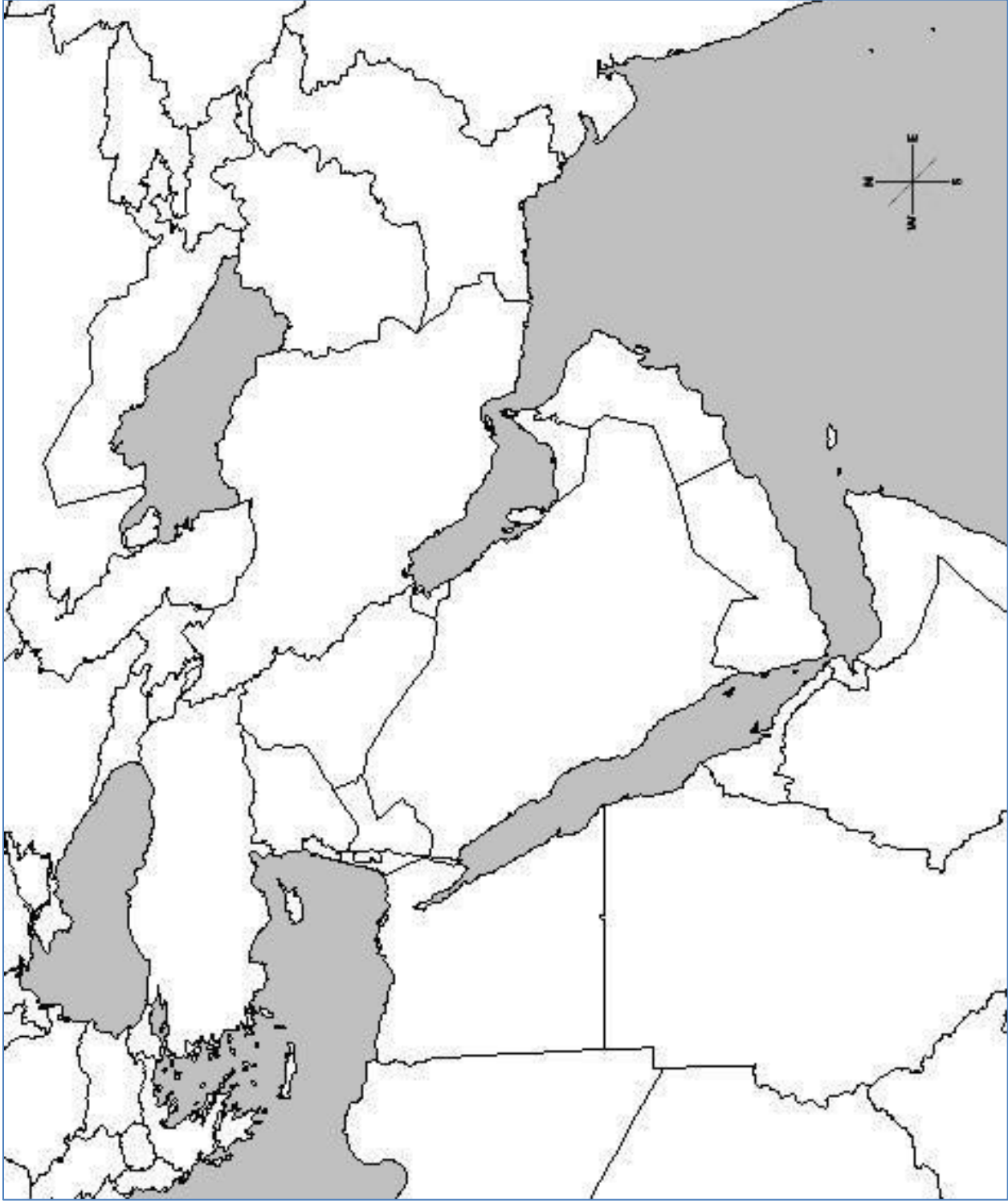
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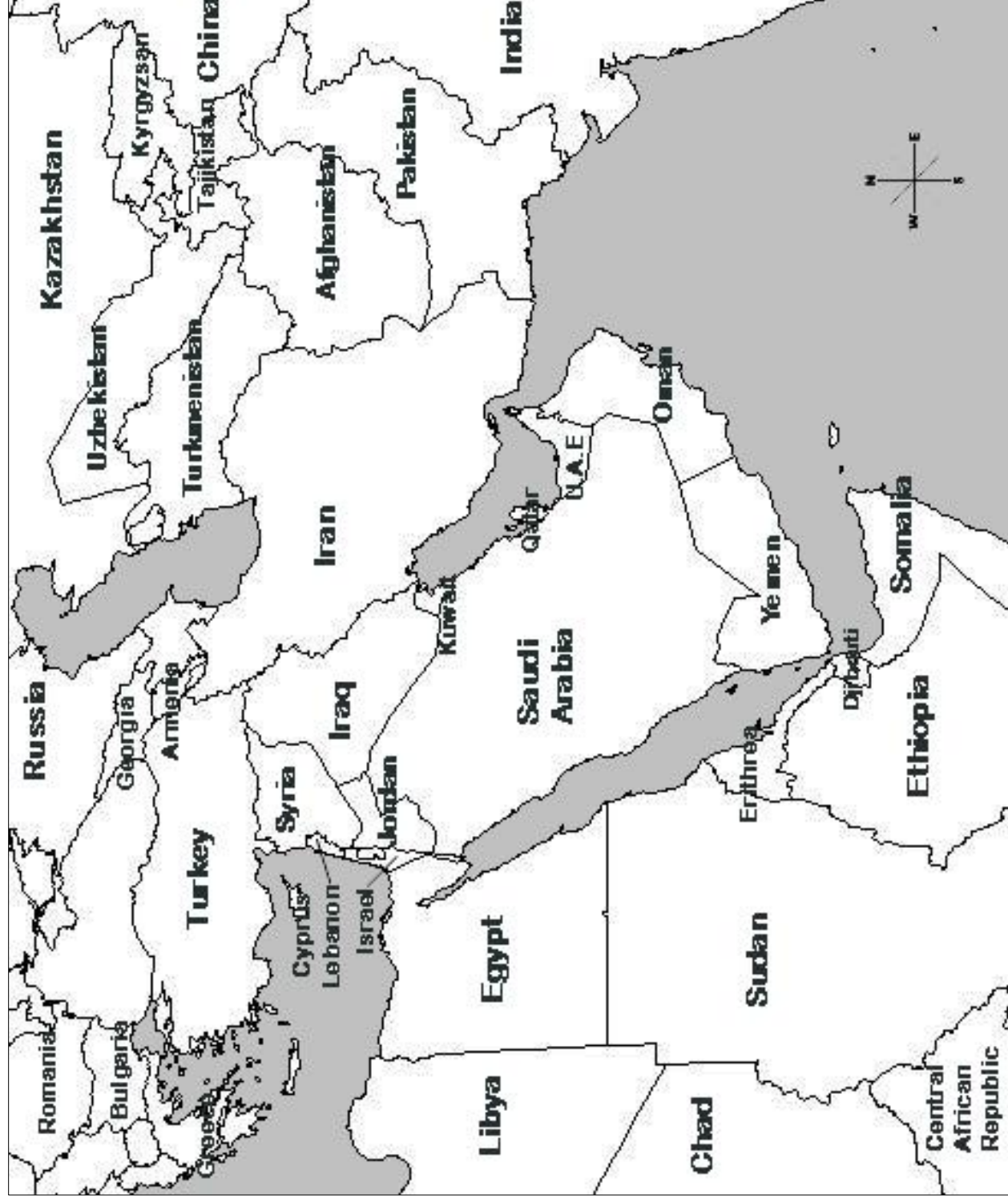
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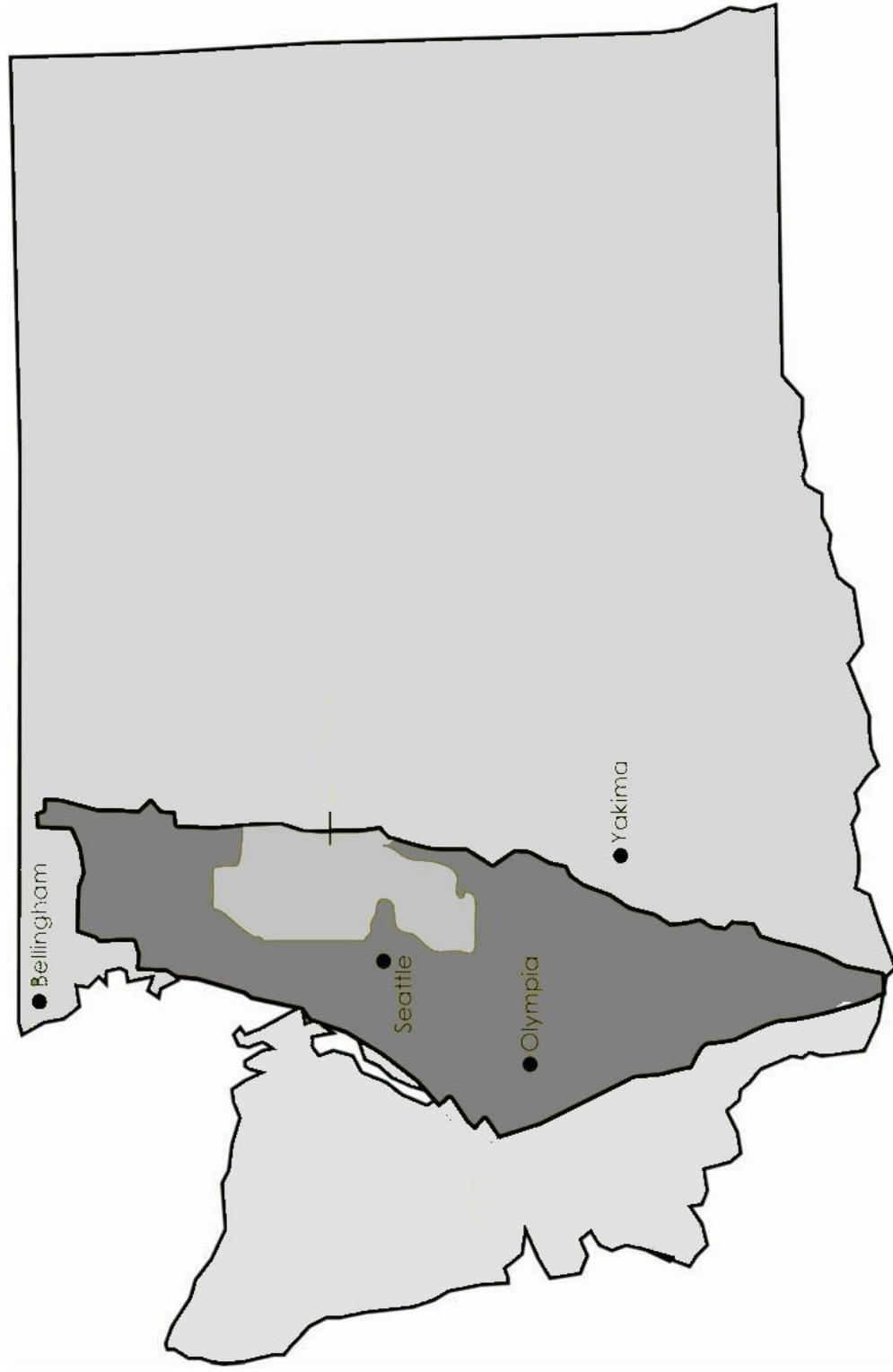
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Israel and Washington State: To Scale



Approximately how many
people live in Israel?

4.5 Million

Approximately how many
people live in Israel?

7.5 Million

Approximately how many
people live in Israel?

12 Million

Approximately how many
people live in Israel?
20 Million

What is Israel's official language?

Hebrew

What are Israel's official
languages?

**Hebrew and
Arabic**

What are Israel's official
languages?

**Hebrew, Arabic,
and Russian**

What are Israel's official
languages?

**Hebrew, Arabic,
Russian, English
and Amharic**

How old is the city of Jerusalem?

About 150 years

How old is the city of Jerusalem?

About 450 years

How old is the city of Jerusalem?

**About 1,100
years**

How old is the city of Jerusalem?

About 3,000

years

Who founded the Zionist
movement?

Theodore Herzl

Who founded the Zionist
movement?

Yitzhak Rabin

Who founded the Zionist
movement?

Yasser Arafat

Who founded the Zionist
movement?

**Lord Arthur
Balfour**

Who is the current prime
minister of Israel?

Ehud Barak

Who is the current prime
minister of Israel?

Ariel Sharon

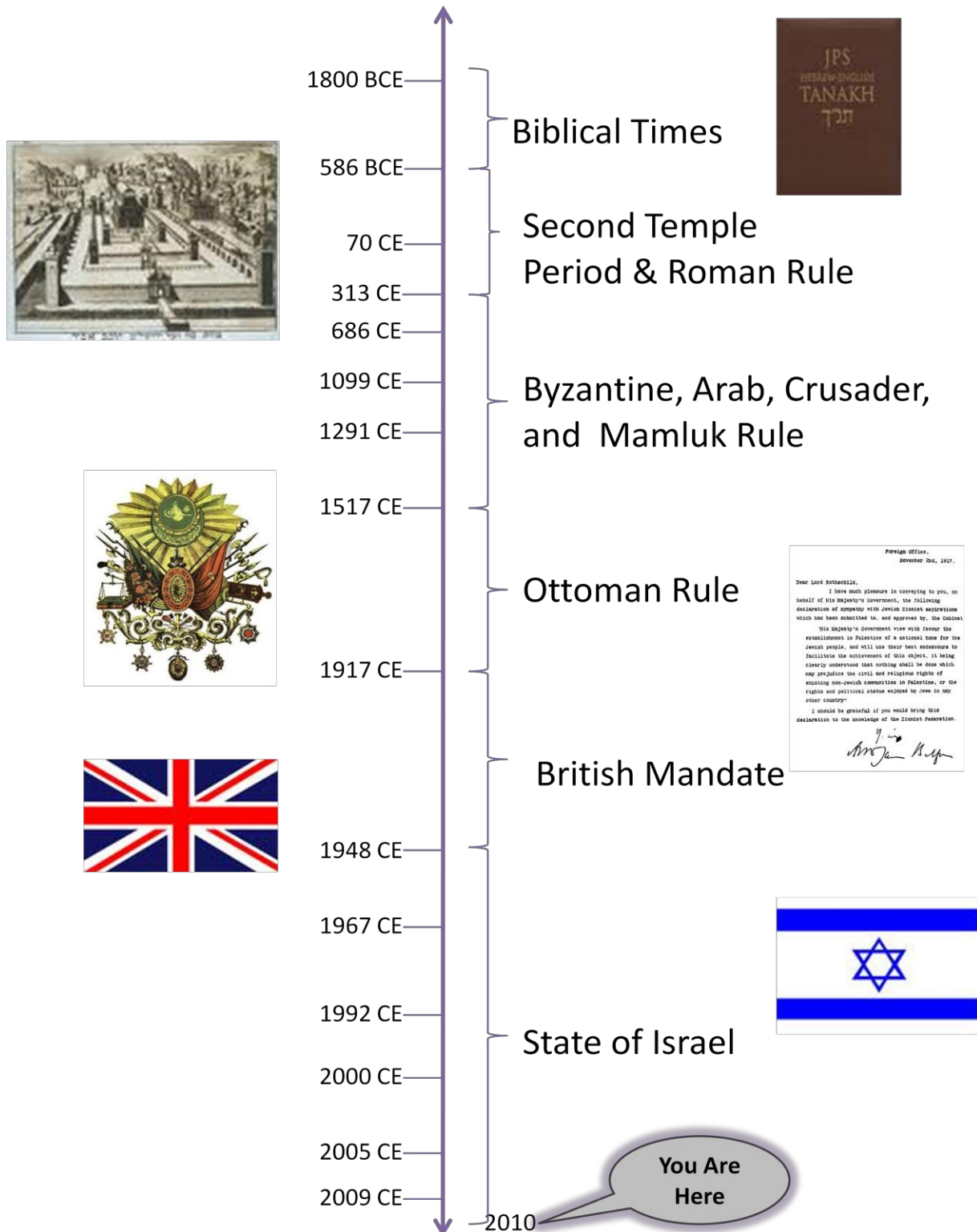
Who is the current prime
minister of Israel?

**Benjamin
Netanyahu**

Who is the current prime
minister of Israel?

Shimon Peres

Israel History Timeline



Course Outline

Modern Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Nevet Basker, Congregation Beth Shalom Religious School
Winter 2010-2011

You Are
Here

1.	Introduction and Orientation	Tuesday, November 30, 2010
2.	The Land of Israel	Tuesday, December 7, 2010
3.	Zionism: Jewish Nationalism	Tuesday, December 14, 2010
4.	The British Mandate	Tuesday, January 4, 2011
5.	Independence	Tuesday, January 11, 2011
6.	The Six Day War	Tuesday, January 18, 2011
7.	The Quest for Peace	Tuesday, January 25, 2011
8.	The Current Conflict	Tuesday, February 1, 2011
9.	Beyond the Conflict	Tuesday, February 8, 2011
10.	Bringing It Together	Tuesday, February 15, 2011