

Jerusalem: A City in Conflict

Name _____

Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, is a holy city not only for Jews, but also for Muslims and Christians. About three thousand years ago, King David (a Jewish leader) established Jerusalem, and many Jewish holy sites are still located there. For Muslims the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqua Mosque in Jerusalem are considered holy sites. Christians also see Jerusalem as holy because it was where Jesus lived, preached, died, and was resurrected. As a result of these often conflicting religions considering Jerusalem as holy, it has been a place of conflict for thousands of years.

In 1947 an independent Jewish state called Israel was established. The land was occupied by an Arab population, which primarily consisted of Muslims, Christians, and Druze people. In the 1950s mass immigration of Jews caused the Arab population to decrease to 11%. The Arab population of Israel is currently expected to increase by 3.4%.

Jerusalem's Population

Year	Jews	Muslims	Christians	Total *
1844	7,120	5,000	3,390	15,510
1896	28,112	8,560	8,748	45,420
1948	100,000	40,000	25,000	165,000
1967	195,700	54,963	12,646	263,309
1995	482,000	164,300	16,300	662,600
2011	497,000	281,000	14,000	792,000

*Note –population totals reflect those who identify with Jewish, Muslim or Christian population only. To determine a percentage, divide the number by the total.

To calculate the percentage of the population that was Jewish in 1844: **Divide: 7120 ÷ 15510 = .4590586**

Round to the nearest hundredth: **.4590586** rounds to 46%. (Remember to drop the decimal point and add a percentage symbol.)

- Calculate the percentage of Muslims in 1844. _____
- Calculate the percentage of Christians in 1844. _____
- Add the percentages of Jews, Muslims and Christians from the year 1844 together.

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

**When all percentages are added together, the total should be 100. This is a good way to check your work.

- Calculate the percentages of Jews, Muslims, and Christians for the year 1896.
 Jews _____ Muslims _____ Christians _____
- Calculate for the year 1948.
 Jews _____ Muslims _____ Christians _____

6. Calculate for the year 1967.
Jews _____ Muslims _____ Christians _____
7. Calculate for the year 1995.
Jews _____ Muslims _____ Christians _____
8. Calculate for the year 2011.
Jews _____ Muslims _____ Christians _____
9. What has happened to the Christian population in Jerusalem from 1844 to 2011?
a. It increased.
b. It decreased.
c. It stayed the same.
10. What has happened to the Jewish population in that same time frame?
a. It increased.
b. It decreased.
c. It stayed the same.
11. How much has the percentage of Muslims changed from the year 1844 to 2011?
12. What is the change in the percentage of Jews from the year 1948 to 1967?
13. What is the change in the percentage of Jews from the year 1967 to 2011?
14. What event caused that percentage of change in the Jewish population?
Why do you think that had an effect?
15. What do you think the percentage of Jews, Muslims, and Christians will be in the year 2020?
Explain your answer.
16. How do you think these changes will affect the current conflicts in the region?
Explain your answer

Answer Key

Teacher directions:

Read and discuss the information on Jerusalem and Israel with the students. Discuss the significance of Jerusalem to a number of religions. Model with students how to use calculators to convert the table to percentages.

1. Calculate the percentage of Muslims in 1844. 32%
2. Calculate the percentage of Christians in 1844. 22%
3. Add the percentages of Jews, Muslims and Christians from the year 1844 together. 46% + 32% + 22% = 100%
4. Calculate the percentages of Jews, Muslims and Christians for the year 1896.
Jews 62% Muslims 19% Christians 19%
5. Calculate for the year 1948.
Jews 61% Muslims 24% Christians 15%
6. Calculate for the year 1967.
Jews 74% Muslims 21% Christians 5%
7. Calculate for the year 1995.
Jews 73% Muslims 25% Christians 2%
8. Calculate for the year 2011.
Jews 63% Muslims 35% Christians 2%
9. What has happened to the Christian population in Jerusalem from 1844 to 2011? ***a. It decreased.***
10. What has happened to the Jewish population in that same time frame? ***a. It increased.***
11. How much has the percentage of Muslims changed from the year 1844 to 2011? ***3%***
12. What is the change in the percentage of Jews from the year 1948 to 1967? ***13%***
13. What is the change in the percentage of Christians from the year 1967 to 2011? ***3%***
14. What event caused that percentage of change in the Jewish population? ***The establishment of the State of Israel***
Why do you think that had an effect? ***Accept reasonable answers***
15. What do you think the percentage of Jews, Muslims, and Christians will be in the year 2020?
Explain your answer. ***Accept answers that are supported with logic and reasoning.***
16. How do you think these changes will affect the current conflicts in the region? Explain your answer.
Accept reasonable answers.

Map of Israel



<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/is.html>