

The Values of Israel's Declaration of Independence

<p>Value 1: Israel as a Safe Place for Jews</p> <p>"The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people - the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State..."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did the Holocaust create an "urgency" for a Jewish State? Does that urgency still exist? • Do you think Israel is a safe place for Jews 	
<p>Value 2: The Right of a People to Have its Own Country</p> <p>"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."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should all people have their own state? • What are the responsibilities of a people who have their own state? 	
<p>Value 3: The Values Taught by the Hebrew Prophets</p> <p>"THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open to the immigration of Jews from all countries of their dispersion; will promote the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; will be based on the precepts of liberty, justice and peace taught by the Hebrew Prophets; will uphold the full social and political equality of all its citizens, without distinction of race, creed or sex; will guarantee full freedom of conscience, worship, education and culture; will safeguard the sanctity and inviolability of the shrines and Holy Places of all religions; and will dedicate itself to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the things that you value? Are they found in this document? • Are these values Jewish values? Are they important in the modern world? 	

<p>Value 4: The Rights of Arab Inhabitants of Israel</p> <p>"In the midst of wanton aggression, we yet call upon the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to return to the ways of peace and play their part in the development of the State, with full and equal citizenship and due representation in its bodies and institutions - provisional or permanent."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you surprised to learn that Israel extends citizenship to all Arab residents of the sovereign State of Israel? • What responsibility does this give to Israel? What does it give to the Arab residents? 	
<p>Value 5: Peace to Israel's Neighbors</p> <p>"We offer peace and unity to all the neighboring states and their peoples, and invite them to cooperate with the independent Jewish nation for the common good of all."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean that Israel offered peace to its neighbors in its first public statement? • What should that mean about Israel's relationship with its neighbors today? 	
<p>Value 6: Uniting Israel & Jews Around the World</p> <p>"Our call goes out to the Jewish people all over the world to rally to our side in the task of immigration and development and to stand by us in the great struggle for the fulfillment of the dream of generations - the redemption of Israel."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel asked the Jews of the world to rally by its side. What do you think this meant in 1948? And what do you think it means today? • Do you feel the need to rally by Israel's side? • The paragraph suggests that the "redemption of Israel" is ongoing and is not complete. What do you think this means? Do you feel a part of this? 	