

THE WALL

Play the Al Jazeera report “Israel’s Wall Divides East Jerusalem,” available at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYJ_HdI55eM. 21 Jul 07 -- 4 minutes, 2 seconds long.

Discussion of Report:

Ask the class the following questions to facilitate discussion about the video:

- The Israeli official who is interviewed affirms that the wall protects Israeli citizens from Palestinian attacks. How does the wall protect Israelis?
- The newscaster calls the wall “a barrier to peace.” Based on the interviews with the Palestinians who talk about the economic and psychological impact of the wall, how might the wall be a “barrier to peace?”
- If the wall is a barrier to peace, can it effectively protect anyone?

A. Show students a map of the Wall. You can find this in the trunk or online in the Maps Folder.

i. Point out where the wall juts into Palestinian land instead of following the “Green Line”—the agreed upon border of the West Bank. Point out that some areas of Palestinian land are almost or completely enclosed by the wall.

ii. Point out that the entire West Bank is supposed to belong to the Palestinians, but that the white areas are controlled by Israeli settlers, people who have moved from Israel to the Palestinian territories to build small cities and towns of their own. Explain that the settlers do not recognize the agreement that designated the West Bank as belonging to the Palestinians and that they believe the land should belong to Israel. Mention that the Israeli government has given them both official and unofficial support over the years by subsidizing housing, building roads, and offering the protection of the Israeli army, even though the International Court of Justice ruled that the settlements are illegal.

Followup or introduction: do the Movement Activity Worksheet found in the Dig Deep CBA to bring the problems of the Wall home to the students.