**Title:** UN Partition Plan Map, 1947

**Year (Hebrew):** 5707

**Year:** 1947

**Location:** Israel

**Short description**

An original map of the Partition Plan presented to the United Nations in 1947.

**Detailed description**

**​** ​This is a map of the Partition Plan accepted by the United Nations (UN) in 1947. The blue areas indicate the proposed Jewish state and the orange areas indicate an Arab state. The status of the city of Jerusalem is left white, as it was intended to become a city under international jurisdiction.

According to the map, the plan was proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Palestinian Question. The date of publication is printed in the bottom left corner. The map was based on an earlier map, “Survey of Palestine, 1946.” According to the international boundaries on the original map, Palestine included Transjordan; however, this was not the case according to the UN Partition Plan.

It is interesting to note which cities are highlighted on the map. Some of the cities which are written in large lettering are today small cities, whereas there are some major Israeli cities today which did not exist then.

There are two railways marked on the map. The largest railway is the Hejaz railway, which was originally designed to connect Damascus to Medina. The railway runs along the eastern border of Palestine. A line connecting the Hejaz railway to Haifa is also visible. The smaller railway marks the Jaffa-Jerusalem route.

**Would You Like to Know More?**

**The UN Partition Plan**- In August 1947, the UN decided unanimously that the British Mandate in Palestine should be terminated. The UN Special Committee for Palestine (UNSCOP) visited the country and drew up a plan to partition the Land of Israel into two independent states: one Jewish and one Arab. On November 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly voted in favour of this resolution. The Jews, grateful to be granted any part of the land as their own, accepted the plan and the status of Jerusalem as an international city. The Arab nations, on the other hand, unwilling to accept the presence of a Jewish State in Palestine, rejected the UN proposal.

The adoption of the Partition Plan by the UN was celebrated by Jews around the world as a major step toward statehood, and it ultimately paved the way to the declaration of the State of Israel about six months later, in May 1948.

**Teaching Suggestions**

**​​ ​Geography**teachers can use this map when discussing the changing borders of Israel.

**History**and**Politics** teachers can refer to this map in classes about the United Nations and its involvement with Israel over the years.

 The map can also be used by **Jewish Studies** teachers in the lead up to Yom Ha’atzmaut.

**Discussion Points**

**Observation**

* What is this map?
* What are the borders of Israel according to this map?
* What is the purpose of this map?
* When was the map created?
* Who designed this map?
* What language is used on the map?
* What details appear on this map?
* List the names of four cities or towns in the Arab-controlled area? List another four cities or towns in the Jewish-controlled area?

**Reading Between the Lines**

* When was this map presented to the UN?
* What was the UN trying to achieve regarding Palestine?
* According to the key, what is the status of Jerusalem?  
  Why is it unique?
* According to this map, what kind of land (geographically speaking) do the Jews receive? What kind of land do the Arabs receive? Look at [this map](http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/Hebrew/digitallibrary/pages/viewer.aspx?presentorid=NLI_MAPS_JER&docid=NNL_MAPS_JER002366920) for more information.
* Do you think this map was a good proposal? Why or why not?
* Which major Israeli cities are missing from this map? Why do you think this is the case?
* How did the Jews respond to this plan? How did the Arabs respond?
* Did this map ever become a reality? Why or why not?
* What determined the borders of Israel in its early years?
* Think about the events that were taking place at the time that the Partition Plan was created (post-World War II, Jewish immigration restrictions by the Mandate authorities, etc.).  
  Do you think this influenced members of UNSCOP? In what way?
* What is the UN? When and why was it established?

**Connections**

* **​**What do you think about the borders displayed on this map?  
  Could Israel have existed within these borders?
* How did the UN become involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?  
  Is it still involved?
* What is the UN's role today in the peace process?
* How have the borders of Israel changed over the years?  
  How did the changes happen?

**Creative Ideas**

* Use [this worksheet](http://media.wix.com/ugd/322a94_fdadadea3a074f27a27e6657fb36c52c.pdf) to analyse the map.
* [Listen to the recording](http://primo.nli.org.il/primo_library/libweb/action/dlDisplay.do?vid=NLI&docId=NNL_MUSIC_AL003376070) of the UN vote and a journalist's report from Tel Aviv, and write an imaginary diary entry detailing your experiences (14:53-20:25).
* Create a meme about the Partition Plan.
* Using Google Earth, find a street in Israel that has something to do with the Partition Plan (hint: the date).

**Target audience:** Primary School, Junior High, High School, Informal Education, Higher Education

**NLI Links**

[The Eran Laor Cartographic Collection](http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLIS/en/Maps)

[Survey of Palestine, 1946](http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/Hebrew/digitallibrary/pages/viewer.aspx?presentorid=NLI_MAPS_JER&docid=NNL_MAPS_JER002651414#|FL33249998)  
["Majority Partition Plan Called Unworkable," The Palestine Post, 07/09/1947, JPress](http://jpress.org.il/Olive/APA/NLI_heb/SharedView.Article.aspx?href=PLS%2F1947%2F09%2F07&id=Ar00105&sk=C21C6219)