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Why did Reem not finish school?

Learning Outcomes

◊ To identify and locate relevant information

◊ To explore different kinds of rights and obligations and how these affect both individuals and communities

◊ To arrange information and construct an appropriate story to explain why Reem did not finish school

◊ To defend their position and evaluate the conclusions drawn by others

Lesson in brief

Students will be given a series of information cards about Gaza and from these each group will construct a story to explain why a girl living in Gaza might not finish school.

National Curriculum

1.1b, 1.2a, 2.1b

Lesson Plan

Starter

♦ Ask students to imagine that they fail their GCSEs and to jot down what reasons they imagine could prevent them from sitting their GCSE exams successfully. If appropriate ask students to share these reasons.

Activity

♦ Write the following on the board:

> Reem, a Palestinian living in Gaza was the cleverest student in her class. At 12 she was predicted to get grades high enough for a university scholarship abroad but she never finished school.
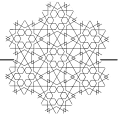>
> Why not?

♦ Explain to the students that Gaza is under occupation by Israel and has been for over 40 years. Tell your class that half the population of Gaza is under 15 years old and three quarters is under 25 years old. Their entire lives have been lived under occupation.

♦ Split the class into groups. Give each group an envelope containing information cards and photos. There are 30 information cards—you can use all or some of the cards, depending on the age and ability of your class

♦ Four of the cards relate to the Israeli attacks in winter 08/09 (Operation Cast Lead). It may be appropriate to direct students as they are working away from making these cards provide the definitive answer for why Reem does not finish school. Palestinians in Gaza have no choice but to try to continue to educate themselves and their children regardless of the obstacles put in their way.

♦ Tell the students that they will use these to find an answer to the question of why Reem did not finish school. Explain to the students that this is a mystery task with no correct answer.

Plenary

♦ Each group will summarise their answer to the rest of the class.

Homework/follow-up

♦ Ask the students to write a diary entry for Reem

Sources for information cards

http://www.pchrgaza.org/files/campaigns/english/gaza/report16.htm

http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/sep/27/israelandthepalestinians.internationalstudents
www.guardian.co.uk/world/2005/apr/03/israel

http://zope.gush-shalom.org/home/en/channels/archive/diaries/under_the_occupation/diary_diary35

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle_east/article553940.ece

http://news.bio-medicine.org/medicine-news-3/Ninety-eight-percent-of-Gazas-children-experience-or-witness-war-trauma----Queens-study-3706-1/

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/1219240.stm

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/7918926.stm

www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/39_4201.htm

www.btselem.org

http://www.opendemocracy.net/node/1046

www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/847548.html

http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/Gaza_Oct09.pdf

http://www.pij.org/details.php?id=494

http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/6605837f6aae00e494b989021ce71a4f.htm

http://uk.reuters.com/article/reutersEdge/idUKADD44092920070514

http://www.map-uk.org/regions/opt/news/view/-/id/320/

http://electronicintifada.net/v2/article10229.shtml

http://www.map-uk.org/regions/opt/news/view/-/id/320/

http://www.dci-pal.org/english/publ/display.cfm?DocId=1166&CategoryId=8

The Gaza Strip: A Humanitarian Implosion – joint report from leading human rights organisations in March 2008
http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/conflict_disasters/gaza_implosion.html
It might be useful to tell the students that the report "A Humanitarian Implosion" that is a source of some of the information came out several months before Operation Cast Lead—enabling students to understand that the situation before and after the attacks is not one of "normality" but of occupation.