

Jerusalem

Primary School Level

WS: Jerusalem Then and Now

Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. It is one of the oldest and most important cities in the world and there are records of it going back as far as 1800 B.C. The city's name means "Home of Peace", but it has not always been peaceful in Jerusalem. The followers of various religions have always fought against each other. Jerusalem is a holy city for Christians, Jews and Muslims and they continue to argue and fight over it.



The Wailing Wall is part of the destroyed temple. There are still 48 meters of wall that have been preserved. Many Jews pray here and place notes with prayers and wishes between the stones. The area in front of the Wailing Wall is used as an open-air synagogue. Because of this all visitors to the Wailing Wall should behave as they would in a synagogue: men and women are separated and men wear a Kippa (small cap). Many tourists visit the Wailing Wall, including non-Jews.



Jerusalem is also important for Christians. The city is mentioned in the Bible, for example with regard to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Important sites for Christians are, for example, the Church of the Assumption or the grave of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Over 700,000 people live in Jerusalem today. They come from many different countries. Among them are Jews, as well as Muslims and Christians. You can find other religious groups here as well. They are not allowed to do missionary work within Jerusalem, though, which means they can't recruit new followers. Living together is still not always simple and peaceful. There is another side of Jerusalem as well – many tourists visit the city yearly to see its many historical sights, parks and museums.

This is the Dome of the Rock. It stands on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and is very famous. The Dome of the Rock is one of the oldest and most important holy sites for Muslims. They use the Dome of the Rock to this day as a shrine or place of worship.

