Jerusalem: A City in Conflict

Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, is a holy city not only for Jews, but also for Muslims and Christians. About three thousand years ago, King David (a Jewish leader) established Jerusalem, and many Jewish holy sites are still located there. For Muslims the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqua Mosque in Jerusalem are considered holy sites. Christians also see Jerusalem as holy because it was where Jesus lived, preached, died, and was resurrected. As a result of these often conflicting religions considering Jerusalem as holy, it has been a place of conflict for thousands of years.

In 1947 an independent Jewish state called Israel was established. The land was occupied by an Arab population, which primarily consisted of Muslims, Christians, and Druze people. In the 1950s mass immigration of Jews caused the Arab population to decrease to 11%. The Arab population of Israel is currently expected to increase by 3.4%.

Jerusalem’s Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Jews</th>
<th>Muslims</th>
<th>Christians</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1844</td>
<td>7,120</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>3,390</td>
<td>15,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>28,112</td>
<td>8,560</td>
<td>8,748</td>
<td>45,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>165,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>195,700</td>
<td>54,963</td>
<td>12,646</td>
<td>263,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>482,000</td>
<td>164,300</td>
<td>16,300</td>
<td>662,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To determine a percentage, divide the number by the total.

To calculate the percentage of the population that was Jewish in 1844: Divide: \(7120 \div 15510 = 0.4590586\)

Round to the nearest hundredth: \(0.4590586\) rounds to 46%. (Remember to drop the decimal point and add a percentage symbol.)

1. Calculate the percentage of Muslims in 1844.
2. Calculate the percentage of Christians in 1844.
3. Add the percentages of Jews, Muslims and Christians from the year 1844 together.

**When all percentages are added together, the total should be 100. This is a good way to check your work.**
4. Calculate the percentages of Jews, Muslims, and Christians for the year 1896.
   Jews ________  Muslims ________  Christians ________

5. Calculate for the year 1948.
   Jews ________  Muslims ________  Christians ________

   Jews ________  Muslims ________  Christians ________

   Jews ________  Muslims ________  Christians ________

8. What has happened to the Christian population in Jerusalem from 1844 to 1995?
   a. It increased.  
   b. It decreased.  
   c. It stayed the same.

9. What has happened to the Jewish population in that same time frame?
   a. It increased.  
   b. It decreased.  
   c. It stayed the same.

10. How much has the percentage of Muslims changed from the year 1844 to 1995?
    _______________________________________________________

11. What is the change in the percentage of Jews from the year 1948 to 1967?
    _______________________________________________________

12. What is the change in the percentage of Jews from the year 1967 to 1995?
    _______________________________________________________
13. What event caused that percentage of change in the Jewish population?
________________________________________________________________________
Why do you think that had an effect? ________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

14. What do you think the percentage of Jews, Muslims, and Christians will be in the year 2005?
   Explain your answer. _______________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

15. How do you think these changes will affect the current conflicts in the region?
   Explain your answer. _______________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
**Answer Key**

Teacher directions:
Read and discuss the information on Jerusalem and Israel with the students. Discuss the significance of Jerusalem to a number of religions. Model with students how to use calculators to convert the table to percentages.

1. Calculate the percentage of Muslims in 1844.  
   \[\text{\underline{32\%}}\]

2. Calculate the percentage of Christians in 1844.  
   \[\text{\underline{22\%}}\]

3. Add the percentages of Jews, Muslims and Christians from the year 1844 together.  
   \[46\% + 32\% + 22\% = 100\%\]

**When all percentages are added together, the total should be 100. This is a good way to check your work.**

4. Calculate the percentages of Jews, Muslims and Christians for the year 1896.  
   Jews 62\%  Muslims 19\%  Christians 19\%  

5. Calculate for the year 1948.  
   Jews 61\%  Muslims 24\%  Christians 15\%  

   Jews 74\%  Muslims 21\%  Christians 5\%  

   Jews 73\%  Muslims 25\%  Christians 2\%  

8. What has happened to the Christian population in Jerusalem from 1844 to 1995?  
   \[a. \text{It decreased.}\]

9. What has happened to the Jewish population in that same time frame?  
   \[a. \text{It increased.}\]
10. How much has the percentage of Muslims changed from the year 1844 to 1995?  

____ 7%  

11. What is the change in the percentage of Jews from the year 1948 to 1967?  

____ 13%  

12. What is the change in the percentage of Christians from the year 1967 to 1995?  

____ 3%  

13. What event caused that percentage of change in the Jewish population?  

_____________ The establishment of the State of Israel ______  

Why do you think that had an effect? ____Accept reasonable answers____  

___________________________________________________________  

14. What do you think the percentage of Jews, Muslims, and Christians will be in the year 2005?  

Explain your answer. ____Accept answers that are supported with logic and reasoning.____  

15. How do you think these changes will affect the current conflicts in the region? Explain your answer.  

____Accept reasonable answers._
Map of Israel