

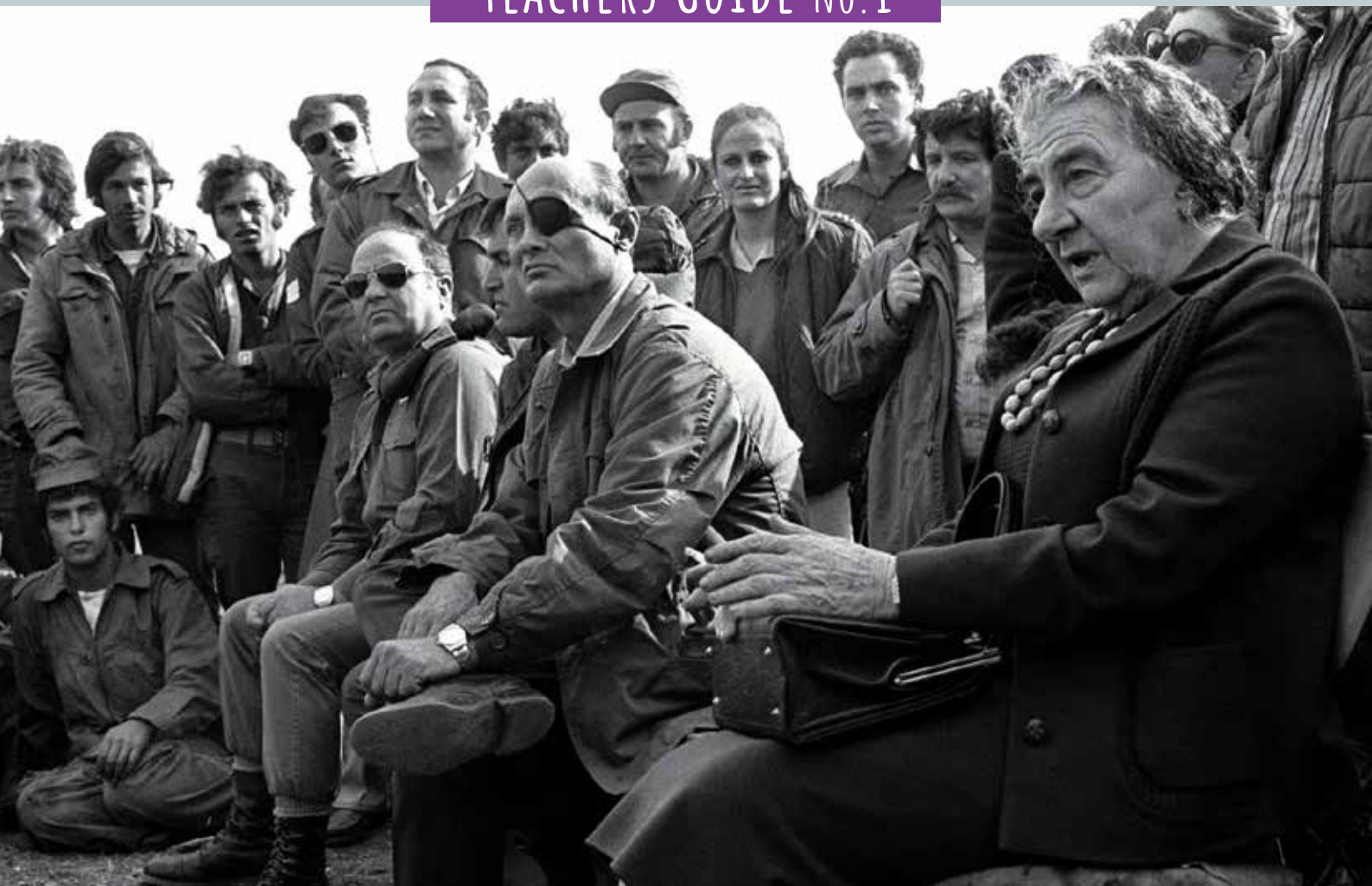


UnitEd

אל עמי - אל שמיים
אל עמי
זהות | צינות | מורשת | אחדות

50 YEARS TO YOM KIPPUR WAR

TEACHERS GUIDE No. 1



Lesson Scope

In this unit we will analyze the background to the Yom Kippur War. The background is divided into two - war background (1a) and background from the perspective of the leaders' positions (1b)

part 1A - war background

The content of the workshop

In this lesson we will examine the military background to the Yom Kippur War:

- a. The Six Day War and the feeling of Victory
- b. The War of Attrition - Drawing the wrong conclusions about the enemy



Lesson Objective

The objectives of the workshop

A.

Students will analyze the results of the Six Day War and how this affected the mindsets and strategic goals and decisions of the key decision makers.

B.

Students will analyze the lessons learned and not learned from the War of Attrition.

C.

The students will get to know Israel's position after the war of attrition, the students will get to know Nasser's position towards the war.

D.

The students will know how to analyze the background and the results of the wars and draw conclusions for life from it.



Lesson Plan

- [Slides 2-3](#) General explanation of the wars.
- [Slide 4](#) An animated slide: students will take note of the number of casualties in each war, especially the large number of killed in the Yom Kippur War
- [Slide 5](#) Introduction to the workshop: What were the feelings after the Six Day War (June 1967) that impacted the Yom Kippur War?
- [Slide 6](#) video - the bombing of the Egyptian air force bases by the IAF in the first three hours of the war
- [Slide 7](#) This slide is titled “the workshop” to remind teachers that this is the part of the workshop with pictures:
 - * Spread out on the floor of the classroom or on the wall the pictures from the war as a basis for the discussion in slide 11.
 - * If there is not enough time these pictures are in slides 8-10 and can be shown as part of the presentation.
- [Slide 11](#) Picture based discussion questions
- [Slide 12](#) This slide presents the assumptions held by the IDF in the aftermath of the Six Day War
- [Slide 13](#) This slide describes the War of Attrition in detail
- [Slide 14](#) This slide presents the assumptions held by the IDF in the aftermath of the War of Attrition
- [Slide 15](#) Conclusions

At the conclusion of the lesson students will see that Israel was not properly prepared for war and therefore suffered many casualties.

Students will demonstrate understanding that in life, especially on the national level, mistakes must be analyzed and learned from after victories also (i.e. the Six Day War), and not just after defeats.

Part 1B - Leaders and their Mindsets

The content of the workshop

In this lesson we will focus on the relevant leaders and their mindsets as background to the war.

The leaders in the workshop are:

Golda Meir, Anwar Sadat, Moshe Dayan, David Elazar, Eli Zeira



Lesson Objective

The objectives of the workshop

A.

The students will get to know the main decision makers during the war, get to know their opinion and mentality and from this they will understand their decisions during and before the war.

B.

Students will learn the general outlines of the war: surprise, defeat, recovery, victory, cease fire and the timeline of the war.



Lesson Plan

- **Slides 2-3** This part of the lesson can be done as a role playing exercise. Divide the students into groups of 3-5 people and have each group present a different leader and their mindset and position.
- **Slides 4-8** Respectively present the Israeli, Egyptian, and Syrian leaders and their views regarding a future war.

After this part, the students will watch a short video which summarize the leaders' opinions and point of view.

- **Slide 10** This slide presents a timeline and overview of the war's trajectory. We will give a copy of the slide to the students.

- **Slide 11** This slide is a short video presentation about the war. The video can be stopped when necessary to elaborate and explain certain key points. In this video we will see the major phases of the war:
 - * The surprise attack
 - * The initial setbacks
 - * The recovery
 - * The victory
 - * The cease fire
- **Slide 12** The lesson summary and conclusions with reference to the political cartoon



Practical Takeaways

1. Students will demonstrate understanding of the need to learn analyze both victories and defeats and learn lessons from both
2. Students will demonstrate understanding of the influence and danger of mindsets and cognitive biases (e.g. prisoners of the “Concept”)
3. Students will demonstrate understanding of the importance of grasping the perspectives of other people and beware of the dangers of mirror imaging
4. Students will demonstrate understanding the importance of establishing realistic strategic goals



Enrichment Videos

- Students will watch the part of Eli Zeira’s 2013 lecture where he identifies several his own mistakes. The two main ones are: a) his failure to understand the Egyptian mindset; and b) his failure to challenge his own assumptions (6 minutes), or:
- Students can watch the video that reviews the entire war (18 minutes)

part 1A - presentation

NOTES:

1

3

The Yom Kippur War - Tishrei 10 - 5734; October 6, 1973 - War Background

Background: The Two Prior Wars

a) **The Six Day War:** June 5-10, 1967.
This war was between Israel and Egypt, Syria and Jordan with some assistance from Iraq, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia. The war concluded with a very clear Israeli victory in which Israel captured vast areas of the Sinai, the Gaza Strip, The Golan Heights, the Yehudah and Shomron, and East Jerusalem. Israel tripled its pre-war size.

b) **The War of Attrition:** Egypt and Israel - June 11, 1967 - August 7, 1970.
Egypt wanted to pressure Israel to abandon the areas she captures during the Six Day War, or at least to force Israel to retreat from the Suez Canal to allow for ships to pass through. Concurrent with this war there was also a war of attrition in the Jordan Valley.

2

The Yom Kippur War - Tishrei 10 - 5734; October 6, 1973

The Yom Kippur War broke out fifty years ago on Yom Kippur 5734, October 6, 1973. In a joint effort led by Egypt and Syria a coalition of Arab armies, including Jordan and Iraq, attacked Israel. The war took place primarily in the Sinai and the Golan Heights and lasted until October 24, 1973 when the cease fire took effect.

4

The Yom Kippur War - Tishrei 10 - 5734; October 6, 1973

Match the number of Israeli soldiers killed with the war

The war of Attrition	780
The Yom Kippur War	968
The Six Day war	2,569

6

The Yom Kippur War - Tishrei 10 - 5734; October 6, 1973

War background – The Six Days War

Video: The bombing of Egyptian air force bases in 1967



8

The Yom Kippur War - Tishrei 10 - 5734; October 6, 1973

War background – The Six Days War

Pictures of the Israeli Air Force bombing Egyptian air force bases on the first day of the Six Day War.



5

The Yom Kippur War - Tishrei 10 - 5734; October 6, 1973

What were the attitudes after the Six Day War that influenced the results of the Yom Kippur War?

Show the video and afterwards some pictures that will help answer the questions
(pictures in the slides or in attached appendix)

7

Workshop
Pictures from the Six Day War

7

NOTES:

9

The Yom Kippur War - Tishrei 10 - 5734; October 6, 1973 War background – The Six Days War

Pictures of the shoes Egyptian soldiers abandoned while fleeing



11

The Yom Kippur War - Tishrei 10 - 5734; October 6, 1973

Discussion:

- Describe what you see in the pictures
- In your opinion what do you think were the Israeli attitudes about the Arab soldiers after the war?
- What did the leaders think?

10

Pictures of Egyptian soldiers surrendering



12

Assumptions after the Six Day War



The IDF has a substantial advantage over the Arab armies

It will take many years for the Arab armies to rebuild their armies to the point of constituting a serious threat to Israel

8

NOTES:

13



Immediately following the Six Day War (June 1967) the War of Attrition began (June 11, 1967 - August 7, 1970)

At the conclusion of the Six Day War a new reality existed after the Arab armies were defeated and Israel captured the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the Yehudah and Shomron from Jordan and the Golan Heights from Syria. Israel ripped its pre-war area.

After the Six Day War, Gamal Abdel Nasser, the president of Egypt declared:

"I can't conquer the Sinai, but I can exhaust Israel."

He therefore initiated immediately after the Six Day War a war of attrition that lasted three years along the Egyptian, Syrian, and Jordanian fronts. The main battle area was the Suez Canal region. The Egyptians stelled the Israel positions and launched cross-canal commando raids.

A large quantity of arms was given to Egypt by the Soviet Union including advanced SAM anti-aircraft missile batteries and SAGAR anti-tank missiles.

In this war Israel had air superiority while Egypt had the advantage in weaponry that she received from the Soviet Union.

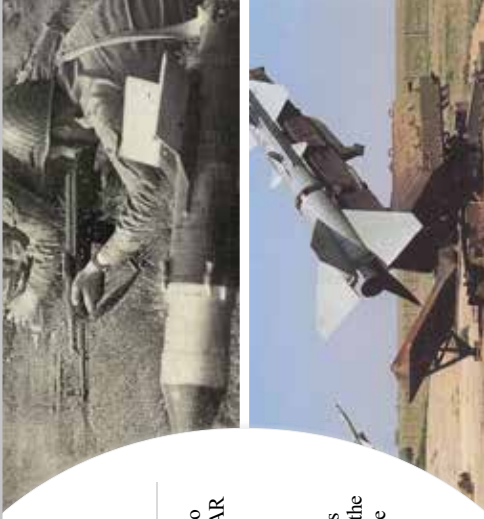
There were many casualties on both side sin this war. The cease fire went into effect on August 7, 1970

15

Conclusions:

- Israel was not properly prepared for the war. She therefore suffered a high amount of wounded and killed soldiers.
- People, and especially leaders, must learn lessons after victories and not only after defeats.
- We cannot be blinded by victory. Hubris can lead to disaster. Humility saves lives.
- Never denigrate an opponent. Remember that an opponent also learns from failures and is constantly improving.
- One must always be up to date with developing technologies and be prepared to deal with new technologies that the enemy might procure.

14



Assumptions after the war of Attrition

Israel failed to prepare properly to defend against the SAM and SAGAR missiles

Despite suffering many casualties Israel failed to identify changes in the Egyptian battle doctrine and force development

part 1B - presentation

NOTES:

A graphic with an orange background and a white circle in the center. The text "Role playing" is written inside the circle. A dashed yellow line and a solid blue dot are also present on the circle.

ANWAR SADAT

The Egyptian president in the years 1970-1981 initiated the Yom Kippur War along with Syria in 1973.

After the Six Days War He wanted to regain the Sinai peninsula through negotiations with Israel. However, due to the humiliation of Arab honor in the Six Day War, he believed that Egypt first needed a victory against Israel to re-establish Arab honor and only after that allow Egypt to negotiate from a position of honor and strength.

YOM KIPPUR WAR-
BACKGROUND AND BREAKOUT

A black and white photograph showing soldiers in a desert environment with military vehicles.

YOM KIPPUR WAR-
"תש"י תשל"ד"
10.6.1973

In this lesson we will deal with the background of the Yom Kippur War - From the - **leaders' point of view**

Here are the views of the leaders and their opinions regarding the possibility of another war at that point in time:

After the Six Day War and the War of Attrition,
Before the Yom Kippur War

1

2

3

4

6

GOLDA MEIR

Israel's fourth prime minister
1969-1974

- The strategic status quo is tolerable. We are against territorial negotiations due to our neighbors' unwillingness to reach a peaceful agreement.
- Israel needs the United States as an ally. Israel's possible attack on its neighbors will influence the Americans' decisions.
- Golda had to make decisions in a complex and changing reality.
- -In light of her lack of military experience, she was highly dependent on her military advisers: David Elazar (Chief of Staff), Moshe Dayan (Defence Minister) and Haim Bar-Lev (Government Minister and former Chief of Staff).

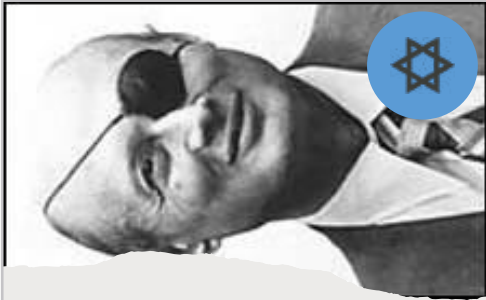


5

MOSHE DAYAN

Was an army high commander, states' man and a public figure. He served as Minister of Defense during the Six Day War, the War of Attrition and the Yom Kippur War.

- Contempt for the Arab soldiers - He was of the opinion that the Arabs would not dare to attack Israel, and that if they did, they would have no chance of succeeding in doing so, since the tremendous strength of the IDF, and the large areas of territory it conquered in the Golan and Sinai, would stand by Israel's side, and cause a quick decision that would end in victory the formula of the Six Day War
- Exaggerating the importance of the strength of the permanent army and the Israeli Air Force
- Excessive reliance on the intelligence assessments of Major General Eli Zeira, the head of the IDF's intelligence division, who is responsible for assessing the situation as to whether war will break out. He estimated that the likelihood of war is very low. (Ali Zeira, enjoys great prestige, and his assessments were given directly to the ministers without any criticism or alternative assessment from others within the Intelligence Division or outside of it.)



8

MAJOR GENERAL ELIE ZEIRA

Elyahu (Eli) Zeira was in the Yom Kippur War Head of the Intelligence Division in the IDF.

- Egypt will not go to war until it has a certain level of strategic equality with Israel
- Syria will not go to war without Egypt.
- Until the day the war broke out, he believed that war was very unlikely



7

LT. GENERAL DADO ELAZAR

David Elazar was the commander of the Northern Command between 1964-1972. From January 1, 1972, he was the Chief of Staff

- "I don't think it would make sense for Egypt to start a war. I think the risks to Egypt are great, but we have to be prepared to the irrational. This is an existing possibility and it requires us to prepare and be on serious alert"
- The Arabs will not attack, and if they do, we will have sufficient warning from the head of intelligence division, Eli Zeira (who promised at least 48 hours advance notice)
- Even if we do not receive the warning in time, the regular army and the air force will be able to delay the invading armies until the reserves can be mobilized and go on the attack.



11

NOTES:

9

Video: Summary of the leaders' positions



10

Events	Date
The war starts surprisingly	10/6/1973
The Egyptians advance to the east side of the Suez channel. The Israeli's outposts in the south front are conquered.	10/6/1967
Syria invades the Golan heights:	First day of war
The Hermon outpost is conquered, and the Syrians advance toward the sea of Galilee	Second day of war
Minister of Defense Dayan: "destruction of state of Israel". Reserve forces join the fight.	Third day of war
Hard braking battles along the borders. The base of the 'Nafeti' division in the Golan Heights almost falls. Counterattack fails in Sinai.	Seventh day of war
Lack of supplies and ammunition. Israel's request for a ceasefire was answered negatively	Ninth day of war
US sends supplies - 'air train'. Egypt's failed attack - out of range of its SAM missile defenses	Tenth day of war
The Battle of Chinese Farm began: one of the hardest and bloodiest battles of the war, a battle of armor and infantry forces near the Suez Canal	Eleventh day of war
Israel crosses the Suez Canal after heavy fighting	Twelfth day of war
The battle moves to enemy territory	Last day of war
Israel is getting closer to Cairo and Damascus. The Soviet Union and the United States force a ceasefire	

11



12

Conclusions

- Lessons should be learned even after successes and not only after failures.
- Our thinking patterns have a great influence on our decision making.
- Other people's opinions and our conversations with them have an impact on our decisions, this should be taken into account before making a decision
- It is important to understand the goals and way of thinking of the other party in order to respond accordingly.
- It is very important to set realistic strategic goals

12

NOTES:
