Central to any conversation on antisemitism, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Jewish history is to understand what it means to be part of the Jewish people. At Club Z, our philosophy is to teach students that Jews are from Judea and that Jews are an ethno-religious people.

Although we recognize that Zionism is a 19th century political movement, Club Z treats Zionism as integral to Jewish identity. Our program teaches students that the idea of “tsion,” the Hebrew word for Zion, is ancient and as such, Zionism is the Jewish people’s heartbeat.

Today’s sharp rise in antisemitism and attack on Zionism reveal that Jews cannot afford to only educate. Club Z strongly believes that education and advocacy must be taught together in order to effect change. We do this by telling our teens that advocating for Israel and/or Zionism is no more and no less than advocating for yourself as a Jew.
a. The Origins of Palestine
   i. Roman Occupation of Judea
   ii. Judea Capta Coin
   iii. Philistines and Judeans
b. Zionist Visions: From Proto-Zionism to Political Zionism
   i. Abraham and Moses: the Zionist Idea
   ii. Herzl and the Jewish State
   iii. Revisionist Zionism: Ze’ev Jabotinsky
   iv. Religious Zionism: Rav Abraham Isaac Kook
c. Peoplehood: The What, When, Where and Why of the Jewish People
   i. Jews as an ethno-religious group
   ii. Jews in American context: Pittsburg Platform
   iii. Understanding Title VI: Religious and Ethnic Minority Rights
d. Jewish Values: 6 Jewish Values that Impacted the World
   i. Understanding Jewish values
   ii. Pre-Judaism: What Jews gifted to the world
e. Indigeneity: Jewish Peoplehood
   i. 5-finger theory of indigeneity
   ii. Jews are from Judea
   iii. Jewish timeline and maps
   i. Menachem Begin and “Never Again”
   ii. Zionism and Diaspora Judaism
   iii. Jews and Power
g. Soviet Jewry Struggle
   i. Soviet Jewish ethnic identity
   ii. Anti-Zionist campaign
   iii. American Jews and Soviet Jews
h. The Forgotten Refugees
   i. Jews from Arab/Muslim lands
   ii. Jewish migration and absorption in Israel
   iii. The Farhud
i. Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism
   i. History of antisemitism
   ii. Anti-Zionism— When did it begin?
   iii. Durban Conference
   iv. Jewish anti-Zionists today
j. Jerusalem: Eternal Capital of the Jewish People
   i. Jerusalem in Judaism, Christianity, Islam
   ii. East and West Jerusalem: What does this mean?
ZIONISM
Peoplehood, Zionism, Advocacy

a. First Zionist Congress of 1897
   i. Reenactment (simulating the First Zionist Congress)
   ii. Political Zionism

b. Israel’s Declaration of Independence: The Story and the Document
   i. David Ben Gurion and his opponents
   ii. God and the Declaration of Independence
   iii. Why Israel? How Jewish leadership chose the name of the modern Jewish state

c. Assimilation, Emigration, Zionism, and Bolshevism: Jewish Responses to Destruction and Violence
   i. History of Jews in Diaspora
   ii. Pogroms and Chaim Bialik’s “In the City of Slaughter”
   iii. Aliyot
   iv. Assimilation

d. The Yishuv: Hebron, Demographics, Arab and Jewish Leadership
   i. Jewish migration to Palestine
   ii. Jewish settlement of the land
   iii. Arab migration to Palestine
   iv. Hebron and Grand Mufti of Jerusalem

e. Jewish Underground During Mandate Period
   i. Irgun: Menachem Begin and British Mandate
   ii. David Ben Gurion and Haganah

f. Altalena Affair: The story of Jewish disunity
   i. David Ben Gurion and Menachem Begin
   ii. Is Jewish unity possible?
   iii. Forming of Jewish/Israeli military
ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT
Peoplehood, Zionism, Advocacy

a. British Mandate (1920-1948)
i. British Mandate for Palestine
ii. White Papers
iii. Hebron
iv. Peel Commission Report

b. San Remo: Legal Foundations of the Modern State of Israel
i. Fall of Ottoman Empire
ii. Mandate System

c. 1948 War of Independence
i. Arab Liberation Army
ii. Understanding the Armistice Line
iii. Framing the Conflict: Land, Religion, Ideology
iv. Deir Yassin

d. Gaza: Case Study of “Land for Peace”
i. Crisis in Gaza: Hamas and Palestinian Authority
ii. Land for Peace: A Case Study
iii. Rockets, Iron Dome, and the question of “proportional” response

e. The Six Day War
i. Egypt: Shutting down Suez Canal (belli caucus)
ii. Fedayeen
iii. U.N. and Sinai
iv. Israel strikes first
v. Israel past the Green Line: Land grab or national security?

f. Palestinian National Identity
i. PLO and Yassar Arafat
ii. P.A.
iii. Iran, Jihad and “Palestine”

g. Judea-Samaria/West Bank: Areas A, B, C
i. Oslo Accords
ii. Military Occupation vs. Annexation
iii. Settlements: Jewish and Arab in Judea-Samaria

h. Palestinian Refugees: UNWRA
i. 1948 war and 700,000 refugees
ii. Who is considered a Palestinian Arab refugee today: UNWRA?
iii. Palestinian Arab Refugees in the Middle East

i. Terrorism Against Israel
i. Intifadas
ii. National security: Checkpoints and wall
iii. Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad

j. Major Wars Against Israel
i. 1948
ii. 1956
iii. 1967
iv. 1973
v. Lebanon War

k. Understanding Islam in the Middle East
i. Indigeneity and Tribalism in Arab World
ii. Pan-Arab Nationalism
iii. Islamism: Iran and the Islamic Revolution

l. Peace Plans: Resilience and Rejectionism
i. Peel Commission: Two-State Solution
ii. 2008 and PLO
iii. Khartoum Conference: 3 No’s
iv. Rejectionism
v. Abraham Accords

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Antisemitism Today: Case Studies
Understanding BDS: Effective anti-BDS advocacy
The Great Apartheid Lie
Zooming In/Zooming Out: Countering media bias
Understanding Propaganda: Political Cartoons
Effective Advocacy: Case Studies

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