FILMS/VIDEOS

We have provided a selection of appropriate films below. However, three websites provide more titles and resources: Palestinedocs, Just Vision, and the Middle East Children’s Alliance. Please visit each of these for more suggestions.

A Web Resource on Films Chronicling the Life of Palestinians in and Outside the Middle East.
www.palestinedocs.net
From Welcome Page: “One thing we could do as people who work in transnational film is to present information about the critical mass of films we know of, made internationally, that chronicle the years of basic human rights deprivation and denigration leading to what is happening in Palestine today.” Palestinedocs aims to provide easy, affordable access to these films for wide dissemination. The films featured in this resource come from various corners of the world, showing that the concern over Palestine is a truly transnational endeavor. Contributions to this site are equally transnational, coming from friends and colleagues based in a variety of countries. Within the Themes menu, there is a section for Children listing films about or for children. (Note: Films featuring children are not necessarily suitable for children. Preview before showing to young viewers.)

Just Vision
www.justvision.org

Just Vision increases the power and reach of Palestinians and Israelis working to end the occupation and build a future of freedom, dignity and equality for all. Just Vision’s overarching goal is to contribute to fostering peace and an end to the occupation by rendering Palestinian and Israeli grassroots leaders more visible, valued and influential in their efforts. From the website: “We tell their under-documented stories through award-winning films, digital media and targeted public education campaigns that undermine stereotypes, inspire commitment and galvanize action.”

Middle East Children’s Alliance. (See Curriculum section in this Bibliography for a description)
www.meca.org
https://www.mecaforpeace.org/meca-projects/teach-palestine-project/

Mohammed El Kurd is a Palestinian boy growing up in the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah in the heart of East Jerusalem. When Mohammed turns 11, his family is forced to give up part of their home to Israeli settlers, who are leading a campaign of court-sanctioned evictions to guarantee Jewish control of the area. Shortly after their displacement, Mohammed’s family and other residents begin holding unarmed protests against the evictions, determined not to lose their homes for good. In a surprising turn, they are quickly joined by scores of Israeli supporters who are horrified to see what is being done in their name. Through their personal stories, My Neighborhood goes beyond the sensational headlines that normally dominate discussions of Jerusalem and captures voices rarely heard, of those striving for a future of equality and pluralism in the city. My Neighborhood follows Mohammed as he comes of age in the midst of unrelenting tension and remarkable cooperation in his backyard. The film chronicles the resolve of a neighborhood and the support it receives from the most unexpected of places.

Website: [http://www.justvision.org/myneighbourhood/about](http://www.justvision.org/myneighbourhood/about)
Available online from: [http://www.justvision.org/myneighbourhood/watch](http://www.justvision.org/myneighbourhood/watch)
The discussion guide to accompany this film can be found at [https://www.justvision.org/myneighbourhood/discussion-guide](https://www.justvision.org/myneighbourhood/discussion-guide)
Middle/High School

*A Boy, A Wall and a Donkey* by Hany Abu-Assad. Palestine/Germany 2008, 4 minutes.

Three boys stand in front of the intercom at a villa's door, taking turns speaking into it. Alerted by a security camera above their heads, the maid comes out and throws water at them to scare them away. They explain that they just wanted to record a film but since they did not have a camera, they decided to record it at the intercom camera of the door. The maid laughs and tells them that there is no tape in the camera, which is why they should go to a security camera that works. Taking her seriously, one of the boys leads the others to the Separation Wall where they position themselves in front of a turning and recording camera in order to record their movie. When an army jeep approaches in the final scene, they wonder if these are the people who will bring them the tape of their movie. Some profanity in boys' language. Produced by the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights as part of the Stories on Human Rights.

http://www.artfortheworld.net/project.php?id=13
www.palestinedocs.net

*Budrus.* 2009. 1 hour 22 minutes.

*Budrus* is an award-winning documentary film about Palestinian community organizer, Ayed Morrar, who unites Palestinian political factions and invites Israeli supporters to join an unarmed movement to save his village of Budrus from destruction by Israel’s Separation Barrier. Success eludes them until his 15-year-old daughter, Iltezam, launches a women’s contingent that quickly moves to the front lines. Struggling side by side, father and daughter unleash an inspiring, yet little-known, movement in the Occupied Palestinian Territories that is still gaining ground today. *Budrus* shines a light on people who choose nonviolent strategies to confront a threat. A discussion guide is available on the Just Vision website.

https://www.justvision.org/budrus/about
Available on YouTube, Amazon Prime and iTunes.

*Closed Zone.* Legal Center for Freedom of Movement. 2009. 2 minutes.

*Closed Zone* is an animation about a boy trying to escape Gaza. The Legal Center for Freedom of Movement calls on the State of Israel to fully open Gaza's crossings and to allow the real victims of the closure, 1.5 million human beings, the freedom of movement necessary to realize their dreams and aspirations. Even though this is an animation, the reality conveyed is sophisticated and addresses the ongoing struggle in Gaza for ordinary children and young people.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hzqw7oBZT8k
Crash Course World History: Conflict in Israel and Palestine. 2011. 13 minutes.

John Green, in this familiar Crash Course series, gets the facts across in just under 13 minutes. He says that this conflict is often cast as a long-term argument going back thousands of years and rooted in a clash between religions and then tells his viewers that this is not quite true. What is true is that the conflict is immensely complicated and just about everyone in the world has an opinion about it. This film is extremely accessible and a great introduction to the discussion with a youth group. Adding a vocabulary sheet would be helpful.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wo2TLIMhiw

An interesting follow up to Green’s Crash Course is the 15 minute Reaction on YouTube. It is produced by a British youth who watches Green’s Course while filming himself.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imssjG1D-N4

Flying Paper. 2014. 52 minutes.

Flying Paper is the story of Palestinian children in Gaza engaged in kite making and flying. The film follows Musa, a charismatic teen kite-maker in the village of Seifa, and Abeer, an aspiring young journalist in the Jabalya refugee camp. They join a remarkable quest, along with thousands of other children, to shatter the Guinness World Record for the most kites ever flown.

http://flyingpaper.org/watch/ Stream on iTunes, Amazon and Distrify.
www.palestinedocs.net

Interview with Janna Jihad, a 12 year old activist. 2018. 7 minutes long.

Twelve-year-old Janna Jihad has been labeled the world's youngest journalist. She comes from the West Bank where she speaks up about living under Israeli occupation. Jihad is featured in the documentary Radiance of Resistance (see below). Listening to a young activist, and watching film
clips that feature her facing Israeli soldiers will certainly capture the minds of youth in the United States. Produced by the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TN6Xwilgop8

Living Under Blockade in Gaza. 2007. 5 ½ minutes.

This short film, produced by the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization, tells the stories of 3 Palestinians living in Gaza. The stories focus on what life is like with extremely limited access to electricity, water shortages, and restrictive check points that impede people’s ability to travel after the Israeli military bombed Gaza’s only power plant in 2006. One person is a wife/mother of a family who also works outside the home; another is a musician/artist who is cut off from colleagues, job opportunities, and grant resources. The third person is a doorman in a building of a large apartment complex who is responsible for turning on the generator of his building for a few minutes each hour to provide electricity. In a concise format, this video portrays the reality of life for ordinary people living in a highly oppressive environment and sheds light on the long-term impacts of this kind of life.

https://www.afsc.org/video/living-under-blockade-gaza


Promises follows the journey of one of the filmmakers, Israeli-American B.Z. Goldberg. B.Z. travels to a Palestinian refugee camp and to an Israeli settlement in the West Bank, and to the more familiar neighborhoods of Jerusalem where he meets seven Palestinian and Israeli children. Though the children live only 20 minutes apart, they exist in completely separate worlds; the physical, historical and emotional obstacles between them run deep. The film explores the nature of these boundaries and tells the story of a few children who dared to cross the lines to meet their neighbors. Rather than focusing on political events, the seven children featured in Promises offer a refreshing, human and sometimes humorous portrait of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The film is available for K-12 schools, libraries, religious institutions and nonprofit organizations, and is accompanied by a 50-page study guide. A DVD version is available for home use.

http://www.promisesproject.org/

Radiance of Resistance. 2016. 59 minute documentary.

Radiance of Resistance tells the story of then 9-year-old Janna and 14-year-old Ahed Tamimi, and what is like living under military occupation in Nabi Saleh, Palestine. The film also looks at the Palestinian non-violent resistance under a new generation.

http://www.radianceofresistance.com
**Slingshot Hip Hop** by Jackie Salloum. 2008. 83 minutes.

This film connects the stories of young Palestinians living in Gaza, the West Bank and inside Israel as they discover Hip Hop and employ it as a tool to surmount divisions imposed by occupation and poverty. From internal checkpoints and Separation Walls to gender norms and generational differences, this is the story of young people crossing the borders that separate them. DVD is for sale for personal use for $18, $195 for nonprofit organizations and $295 for libraries and universities.

[www.palestinedocs.net](http://www.palestinedocs.net)

**The Conflict Zone** by National Geographic Society. 2013. Series of four 8-minute videos.

These 4 videos are designed to be watched in order: 1) Uneasy coexistence, 2) Israeli Defense Forces, 3) Palestinian Protesters, 4) A Space to Talk. The set is accompanied by a National Geographic blog, describing former President Obama’s tour of Israel, and provides context and discussion questions for the videos. Journalist Aziz Abu Sarah “meets with people from both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in order to better understand and communicate how this international dispute impacts their everyday lives.” The videos keep a neutral yet hopeful tone. Notes: Video 3 has some disturbing still photos depicting violence. The video links web page includes a vocabulary list. However, the vocabulary is not entirely accurate. For example, “West Bank” is described as “located in a large area of central Israel”. Length and scope of each video make the set suitable for short class sessions.

[https://blog.education.nationalgeographic.org/2013/03/18/obama-aziz/](https://blog.education.nationalgeographic.org/2013/03/18/obama-aziz/)  
[https://www.nationalgeographic.org/media/israel-palestine-conflict-zone/](https://www.nationalgeographic.org/media/israel-palestine-conflict-zone/)

**Where Should the Birds Fly.** Fida Qishta. 2013. 58 minutes.
This is the first film about Gaza made by Palestinians living the reality of Israel’s siege and blockade of this tiny enclave. It is the story of two young women, survivors of Israel’s Operation Cast Lead. Mona Samouni, now 12 years old and the filmmaker, Fida Qishta, now 27, represent the spirit and future of Palestinians. The film is a visual documentation of the Goldstone Report. Few films document so powerfully and personally the impact of modern warfare and sanctions on a civilian population. The film itself breaks the blockade. Filmmakers in Gaza have never had the opportunity to make a full length, professional documentary of their reality. Fida Qishta founded The Life-Maker’s Centre, Rafah, Gaza. She was the manager and a teacher at this free facility for 300 children affected by war. The center continues to provide a safe place to play and offers counseling and English language tutoring.

https://www.palestinedocs.net/where-should-the-birds-fly1.html
http://whereshouldthebirdsfly.org


This is a concise statement of purpose and open challenge to the Jewish community to listen to Jewish youth and their commitment to creating a vital, Jewish life that embraces all people – including Palestinians – as equals. It is an inspiring three minutes for all young people. Statements like “We are young Jews and we get to decide what that means” and “we will stand up. We will take to the courts and to the streets” make this video a must-see.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAV-3-AqP9M