

**The Jewish Agency for Israel**  
**The Department for Jewish Zionist Education**

## Israel Fun Facts

Here are some interesting facts and links to more facts and fun figures about Israel, which wonderful resources for quizzes. I have focused on the amazing data (quoted with links) and the best sites with the unusual data (mainly just linked). I am sure you can find many more!!

Please note that there are several short texts from the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs [www.mfa.gov.il](http://www.mfa.gov.il) [MFA], which are (C) and therefore may used only with credit.

### **1. About Israel**

*by the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

*a. Israel is... (basic)*

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/facts%20about%20israel/israel%20in%20brief/>

"Long and narrow in shape, the country is about 290 miles (470 km.) in length and 85 miles (135 km.) in width at its widest point. Although small in size, Israel encompasses the varied topographical features of an entire continent...

"a country of immigrants. Since its inception in 1948, Israel's population has grown five-fold.

"About 91% of Israel's inhabitants live in some 200 urban centers, some of which are located on ancient historical sites. About 5% are members of unique rural cooperative settlements - the kibbutz and the moshav."

"Israel produces 93% of its own food requirements..."

*b. Geographical data*

[http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/mfaarchive/2000\\_2009/2003/4/israel%20at%2055-%20a%20statistical%20glimpse](http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/mfaarchive/2000_2009/2003/4/israel%20at%2055-%20a%20statistical%20glimpse)

elevations, zones... great for creating quizzes!!! [2002 data]

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Facts+About+Israel/Land/THE+LAND-+Geography+and+Climate.htm>

"Mountains and plains, fertile land and desert are often minutes apart. The width of the country, from the Mediterranean Sea in the west to the Dead Sea in the east, can be crossed by car in about 90 minutes; and the trip from Metulla, in the far north, to Eilat at the country's southern tip takes about six hours.

"The Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth at about 1,300 feet (400 m.) below sea level, lies at the southern end of the Jordan Valley."

*c. Birds, Human Population, Water*

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Facts+About+Israel/Land/THE+LAND-+Nature.htm>

"Over 500 different species of birds can be seen in Israel.

[http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFAArchive/2000\\_2009/2002/8/The%20Environment%20in%20Israel](http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFAArchive/2000_2009/2002/8/The%20Environment%20in%20Israel)

"Some 500 million birds - including 85% of the global white stork population - cross Israel's skies twice yearly on their way to Africa in the autumn and to Europe and Asia in the spring.

"According to the long-range master plan (Israel 2020), the country's population will reach about 8.5 million in 2020 (nearly double the 1990 population) and its built-up area will more than double...

"Most of the country's waste is now concentrated in 15 state-of-the art landfills and about 85% of the waste is disposed or treated in an environmentally sound manner - in comparison to a mere 10% just a decade ago.

"as a country plagued by water scarcity, Israel has been forced to develop its water sources in innovative ways. It has become a world leader in the development of drip irrigation, a technique by which relatively small amounts of water are delivered directly to the roots of plants..."

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Facts+About+Israel/Land/THE+LAND-+Water.htm>

"The total annual renewable water resources amount to some 60 billion cubic feet (1.7 billion cu.m.)"

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Facts+About+Israel/Land/THE+LAND-+Rural+Life.htm>

"About 9 percent of Israel's population lives in rural areas, in villages and two unique cooperative frameworks, the kibbutz and moshav..."

"1.8 percent of the population lives in 268 kibbutzim.

"452 moshavim and moshavim shitufi'im comprise some 3.0 percent of the population"

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Facts%20About%20Israel/Science%20-%20Technology/The%20Israel%20High-Tech%20Industry%20-%20Fifty%20Years%20of%20Exc> [2002]

"... Israel's percentage of engineers, the world's highest, with 135 engineers per 10,000 persons, as compared to 85 per 10,000 persons in the United States.

*d. Cities*

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Facts+About+Israel/Land/THE+LAND-+Urban+Life.htm>

Facts about Israel's main cities, with coat of arms for each city- see also \*

*e. Hi-tech*

"Technologically, the Israeli high-tech industry is well positioned among the top five world leaders in the field.

"There is a personal computer in nearly one out of two households, a ratio similar to that of the United States, Canada and a very few European and Far Eastern countries. [2002]

"According to the Ministry of Communications, the current telecommunications infrastructure - in a country with a population of some six million - includes:

2.5 million telephone lines

1.9 million cellular users [2002]

180,000+ Internet users [2002]

1 million cable television users (geographical coverage 88%; in coverage area, 67% of households subscribe to cable TV)

"in the last two decades Israeli developments have contributed significantly to the following information technology and telecommunications industries:

Wireless Communications (voice and data)

Advanced Data Communications Technologies (ATM, xDSL, SDH)

Advanced LAN Technologies (ATM, Fast Ethernet, FDDI, ISDN)

Satellite VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal)

Voice Mail and Related Voice Manipulation Technologies

DSP - Digital Signal Processing Technologies and Products

Encryption and Data Security

Anti-Virus Technologies

Software Utilities for Mainframe and Mid-Range Computers (including year 2000 problem solving utilities)

Databases for Mainframe and Mid-Range Computers

Internet Technologies

Internet Products

Educational Software and Multimedia

Graphic Arts and Color Printing Technologies

Billing Software for Telephone and Cellular Operators

Semiconductor Development and Post-Production Inspection Tools CAD, CAM, and CAE."

*BUT:*

"In terms of productivity per employee, Israeli high-tech still has a long way to go, compared to international standards. Although output per employee in the industry is \$160,000 per annum, some countries boast an output of upward of \$250,000 per employee per annum."

e. Solar water heaters:

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Facts%20About%20Israel/Science%20-%20Technology/Solar%20Energy%20in%20Israel>

"These systems operate at an annual average efficiency of approximately 50%. It is therefore easy to calculate that such a unit saves its owner some 2,000 kWh per year in electricity costs, raising the temperature of a tankful of water by approximately 30oC above its starting point on an average day - i.e. heating water to a temperature of about 50oC. "

For more on solar initiatives <http://www.bgu.ac.il/solar/tour/inner.html>

## 2. Did You Know?

a. Did You Know? Posters, with unusual facts about Israel, collected from other websites <http://www.israelcelebration.com/posters.htm> ;  
- main category images on home page <http://www.israelcelebration.com/>

b. A 2003 article that started it all  
<http://web.israelinsider.com/bin/en.jsp?enPage=ViewsPage&enDisplay=view&enDispWhat=object&enDispWho=Article%5E12268&enZone=Views&enVersion=0&>

Science, technology and medicine data behind the above article: select "interesting facts"

<http://www.israel21c.org/bin/en.jsp?enZone=Facts&enDisplay=view&enDispWhat=Zone&enPage=BlankPage>

12 of the best of the above appear on

[http://www.doingzionism.org.il/about\\_us/activity.asp?id=103](http://www.doingzionism.org.il/about_us/activity.asp?id=103)

c. 20 updated facts

<http://www.cesjds.org/~efratig/SomeMoreInterestingFactsAboutIsrael.htm>

d. Fun Facts by city, highly informative:

Jerusalem Fun Facts [http://www.wcities.com/en/guide/fun\\_facts/409/guide.html](http://www.wcities.com/en/guide/fun_facts/409/guide.html)

Tel Aviv Fun Facts [http://www.wcities.com/en/guide/fun\\_facts/412/guide.html](http://www.wcities.com/en/guide/fun_facts/412/guide.html)

e. 1 in every 3 people in the country of Israel use a cell phone. Seen on

<http://www.greatfacts.com/>

Talking on a cellular phone while driving is against the law in Israel. Seen on

<http://www.greatfacts.com/19.htm> (but compliance is low!!)

## 3. Specialized Facts

a. Eurovision:

Interactive sorting table for Israel in the Eurovision, to 2005, all song titles and details

[http://www.myledbury.co.uk/eurovision/country/eurovision\\_israel.asp](http://www.myledbury.co.uk/eurovision/country/eurovision_israel.asp)

Database of winners <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/waterloo/winners.htm>

Eurovision Fun Facts - browse down to the last item <http://www.comedy-zone.net/triviazone/music/page3.htm>

b. Wine in Israel <http://www.allhlwines.com/history.html>

c. Bible Facts about tithing <http://www.home.earthlink.net/~russkellyphd/id30.html>

#### **4. Online Israel Trivia Quizzes**

a. Israel Election 2006 Trivia

<http://www.jewishagency.org/JewishAgency/English/Jewish+Education/Eye+on+Israel/Current+Issues/Society+and+Politics/Elections2006/Elections+2006.htm>

b. Israel Trivia <http://www.jafi.org.il/education/israel/trivia/index.html>

c. More than a Quiz <http://www.jafi.org.il/education/festivals/zkatz/atz/gnquizen.html>

d. Quiz on the Israeli Air Force - rated Impossible!

<http://www.funtrivia.com/quizdetails.cfm?id=43800>

e. Quiz on the Israeli Arms Industry - rated Tough

<http://www.funtrivia.com/quizdetails.cfm?id=97412>

f. Israel Trivia index on <http://www.funtrivia.com/quizzes/geography/asia/israel.html>

## 5. More Israel Data, Ancient & Modern

- The Dead Sea in Israel is the lowest body of water on Earth, at 1,315 feet below sea level at its lowest point.

- The Mount of Olives in Israel is the oldest, continually used cemetery in the world.

- King Hezekiah built a tunnel to channel water into Jerusalem (II Chronicles 32: 3, 4; II Kings 20:20) which was significant in enabling Judah to fend off the siege of Jerusalem by the Assyrians, in 701 B.C.

Hezekiah's Tunnel, or the Siloam Tunnel, is one of the oldest human structures still in use today. In September 2003, Hezekiah's Tunnel became the *first* structure mentioned in the Bible to be confirmed conclusively by archaeologists. It has been carbon dated to 700 B.C.E., using organic material from the original plaster in the construction.

- Albert Einstein was offered the Presidency of Israel in 1952.

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