

## The USA and Israel quit UNESCO

4th January, 2019



The United States and Israel have officially quit UNESCO. This is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The two countries pulled out of UNESCO at the stroke of midnight as the

New Year came in. It is the second time for the U.S. to pull out of UNESCO. The first time was in 1984, when it thought the agency was favoring the old Soviet Union too much. The U.S. then rejoined in 2003. The current withdrawal started because both nations were worried that UNESCO was biased against Israel. Nikki Haley, the current U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said: "UNESCO is among the most corrupt and politically biased UN agencies. Today, the U.S. withdrawal from this cesspool became official."

UNESCO was co-founded by the U.S. after World War II. It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in education, the sciences and culture. The agency is best known for its World Heritage program, which protects cultural sites and traditions around the world. UNESCO also works to improve education for girls, promote understanding of the horrors of the Holocaust, and defend freedom of the press. The U.S. said it intends to follow UNESCO as a non-member "observer state". The Israeli envoy to the United Nations Danny Danon said his country, "will not be a member of an organization whose goal is to deliberately act against us".

Sources: [abcnews.go.com](http://abcnews.go.com) / [nypost.com](http://nypost.com) / [foxnews.com](http://foxnews.com)

### Writing

The United Nations is a much-needed organization. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

quit / United Nations / countries / midnight / first time / agency / withdrawal / corrupt / peace / cooperation / education / sciences / culture / traditions / horrors / goal / act

### True / False

- a) The USA and Israel will pull out of UNESCO at the end of January. T / F
- b) This is the second time that the USA has pulled out of UNESCO. T / F
- c) The USA pulled out because it said UNESCO was biased against Israel. T / F
- d) The U.S. ambassador to the U.N. called UNESCO a "cesspool". T / F
- e) The USA founded UNESCO after World War I. T / F
- f) UNESCO looks after the World Heritage program. T / F
- g) The article says UNESCO works to improve education for boys. T / F
- h) Israel's envoy to the U.N. said UNESCO works in favor of Israel. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>quit</b>          | a. prejudiced    |
| 2. <b>pulled out</b>    | b. concerned     |
| 3. <b>favoring</b>      | c. on purpose    |
| 4. <b>worried</b>       | d. preferring    |
| 5. <b>biased</b>        | e. help          |
| 6. <b>cooperation</b>   | f. leave         |
| 7. <b>protects</b>      | g. country       |
| 8. <b>promote</b>       | h. safeguards    |
| 9. <b>state</b>         | i. withdrew      |
| 10. <b>deliberately</b> | j. collaboration |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about UNESCO?
- b) What do you think of the USA and Israel quitting UNESCO?
- c) What did you do at the stroke of midnight as the New Year came in?
- d) What do you know about the former Soviet Union?
- e) Why might UNESCO be biased against Israel?
- f) Why did Nikki Haley describe UNESCO as a "cesspool"?
- g) Would you like to work for UNESCO?
- h) What is the most important U.N. agency?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. The United States and Israel have      | a. biased UN agencies     |
| 2. The two countries pulled               | b. against Israel         |
| 3. at the stroke                          | c. of the Holocaust       |
| 4. worried that UNESCO was biased         | d. out of UNESCO          |
| 5. among the most corrupt and politically | e. the world              |
| 6. UNESCO was co-                         | f. against us             |
| 7. cultural sites and traditions around   | g. officially quit UNESCO |
| 8. UNESCO also works to improve           | h. founded by the U.S.    |
| 9. promote understanding of the horrors   | i. education for girls    |
| 10. deliberately act                      | j. of midnight            |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Are organizations like UNESCO important?
- How can we achieve peace through education?
- How can we achieve peace through the sciences?
- How important is it to protect World Heritage sites?
- What do you know about the Holocaust?
- What is the most important thing UNESCO should do?
- What questions would you like to ask Nikki Haley?

## Spelling

- alcyfifoil quit UNESCO
- at the serkot of midnight
- worried that UNESCO was deאים against Israel
- the טרנר U.S. ambassador to the U.N.
- UNESCO is among the most curropt
- the U.S. withdrawal from this posocesl
- peace through international aoencotropi
- protects tucalurl sites
- diitnrtsao around the world
- understanding of the horosrr of the Holocaust
- defend doeefmr of the press
- teelebldyiar act against us

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. b	5. a
6. j	7. h	8. e	9. g	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – The Great Barrier Reef

You think the Great Barrier Reef is the best World Heritage site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't as great. Also, tell the others which is the least impressive of these (and why): the Serengeti, Machu Picchu or Mount Fuji.

### Role B – Machu Picchu

You think Machu Picchu is the best World Heritage site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't as great. Also, tell the others which is the least impressive of these (and why): Great Barrier Reef, the Serengeti or Mount Fuji.

### Role C – The Serengeti

You think the Serengeti is the best World Heritage site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't as great. Also, tell the others which is the least impressive of these (and why): Machu Picchu, Great Barrier Reef or Mount Fuji.

### Role D – Mount Fuji

You think Mount Fuji is the best World Heritage site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't as great. Also, tell the others which is the least impressive of these (and why): Machu Picchu, the Serengeti or Great Barrier Reef.

## Speaking – World Heritage

Rank these with your partner. Put the sites you most want to visit at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| • the Pyramids | • Great Barrier Reef |
| • Acropolis    | • Venice             |
| • Persepolis   | • Machu Picchu       |
| • Mount Fuji   | • Serengeti          |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.