The question of Palestine was brought before the General Assembly of the United Nations by the United Kingdom almost as soon as the United Nations came into being. An 11-member Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) was formed at the first special session of the Assembly in April 1947. The majority of the committee members recommended that Palestine be partitioned into an Arab State and a Jewish State, with a special international status for the city of Jerusalem under the administrative authority of the United Nations. After a two-month-long debate, the General Assembly, adopted resolution 181, approving the Plan of Partition on November 29th 1947.

Guiding thoughts for Reading Like a **Historian**

**I already know that \_\_\_\_ is happening at this time…**

**From this document I would guess that people at this time were feeling…**

**What claims does the author make?**

**What evidence does the author use to support those claims?**

Guiding Questions for Reading Like a **Historian**

**What is the author’s purpose?**

**What else was going on at the time this was written?**

**What things were different back then? What things were the same?**

**What would it look like to see this event through the eyes of someone who lived back then?**

The partition plan, terminated the Mandate, the British armed forces had in the region.

The plan included: (1) The creation of the Arab state of Palestine and the Jewish State of Israel by October 1st 1948 (2) Current Palestine would be divided into eight parts: three were allotted to the Arab State (Palestine) and three to the Jewish State (Israel); the seventh, the town of Jaffa, was to form an Arab enclave within Jewish territory; the eighth part would create the city of Jerusalem under the control of the United Nations Trusteeship Council.

The plan also set out the steps to be taken **prior to independence**. This part of the plan deals with: the questions **of citizenship, transit, the economic union and a declaration to be made by the provisional government of each proposed State regarding access to holy places and religious and minority rights.**

The plan allowed the UN General the Assembly to set up the United Nations Palestine Commission to carry out its recommendations and requested the Security Council to take the necessary measures to implement the plan of partition.

The **Jewish Agency accepted** the resolution despite its dissatisfaction over such matters as Jewish emigration from Europe and the territorial limits set on the proposed Jewish State.

The plan was **not accepted by the Palestinian Arabs and Arab States** on the ground that it violated the provisions of the United Nations Charter, which granted people the right to decide their own destiny. They said that the Assembly had endorsed the Plan under circumstances unworthy of the United Nations and that the Arabs of Palestine would oppose any scheme that provided for the dissection, segregation or partition of their country, or which gave special and preferential rights and status to a minority.