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Fact Sheet - **GEOGRAPHY**

3. GEOGRAPHY

LOCATION: Palestine lies on the western edge of the Asian continent and the eastern extremity of the Mediterranean Sea. It is bound to the north by Lebanon and Syria, to the west by the Mediterranean Sea, to the south by the Gulf of Aqaba and the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula, and to the east by Jordan.

Geographic coordinates: **West Bank** **Gaza**

AREA: Land area: 26,323 km^2 (= 10,162 miles^2)

Palestinian Territories:	6,170 km^2
- West Bank:	5,800 km^2; 130 km long and 40-65 km in width
- Gaza Strip:	365 km^2; 45 km long and 5-12 km in width (self-rule area: 210 km^2)
Water area:	438 km^2 (approx.)

LAND BOUNDARIES:

	West Bank	**Gaza**	
Total:	404 km	62 km + 40 km Coastline	
Borders:	Israel 307 km*, Jordan 97 km	Egypt 11 km, Israel 51 km*	(*= Green Line)

TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES: (asl=above sea level; bsl=below sea level)

DISTRICT	**highest elevation**	**lowest elevation**	**average annual rainfall (1967-1998)**
Bethlehem	900 m asl (Beit Jala)	400 m bsl (Dead Sea area)	700 (west)-100 (east) mm
Jericho	350 m asl (northeast border)	370 m bsl (adjacent to Dead Sea)	160 mm
Hebron	1,011 m asl (Halhul area)	100 m asl	588 mm
Ramallah		24 m bsl (southeast border)	694 mm
Nablus		349 m bsl (southeast border)	663 mm
Jenin	750 m asl (Jabel Hureish)	90 m asl (Al-Mukhabba)	475 mm
Tulkarem	500 m asl (Ras Rashin)	40 m asl	651 mm
Jerusalem		367m bsl (adjacent to Dead Sea)	584 mm
Gaza			415 mm

TOPOGRAPHIC AREAS:

- ***Gaza***: coastal plain, sand dunes up to 40 m high 1,5-4,3 km wide.
- ***Jordan Valley***: fertile plains along the Jordan River; ca. 400 km^2; 200-300 m bsl; rainfall 150 mm/yr.
- ***Eastern Slopes*** (leading to the Dead Sea): 1,500 km^2; 800 m asl-390 m bsl; rocky semi-desert; rainfall 250 mm/yr.
- ***Central Highlands***: 3,500 km^2; up to 1,000 m asl; rainfall 400-700 mm/yr.; terraced hills.
- ***Semi-coastal Zone*** (west-north west): 400 km^2; 100-300 m asl; rainfall 550 mm/yr.

CLIMATE: Mediterranean: hot, dry summers and short, wet, cool winters; temperature and rainfall vary with altitude and location of the four climatic regions (Coastal Plain, the Hills, Jordan Valley, and Naqab Desert).

RIVERS: Jordan (253 km); Yarmuk (40 km); Naher Al-Muqatta (13 km); Naher Al-Auja (26 km).

MOUNTAINS: Jabel Jermac (1,210 m); Jabel Heidar (1,047 m); Jabel Asur (3,333 m); Jabel Adathir (1,016 m); Jabel Ebal (940 m); Jabel 'An (936 m); Mt. Gerazim (881 m); Jabel Tabor (588 m); Ras Ar-Rumman (1,035 m at the border to Egypt); Khalet Batrikh (1,020 m), Halhoul (1,013 m), Su'eer (1,018 m).

Jerusalem: Tal Al-Asur (1,016 m), Mt. Nabi Samuel (Mt. Joie - 875 m); Mt. Masharif (Mt. Scopus - 825 m); Mt. of Olives (Jabel Az-Zaytun - 820 m).