



## What is the Hands Up Project? <https://handsupproject.org/>

### A guide for teachers and volunteers on connecting with Palestinian classes

#### What is Hands Up?

It's a project in which you, or your class, from anywhere in the world, can meet and interact live with a class of kids in Palestine, You see, hear, and chat with them in real time, as if in the same room!

#### Why participate in Hands Up?

To benefit from live exchange, and meaningful language with kids of same age  
To bring real time reality from another country into my classroom – now.  
To help make the Palestinian children visible to the world  
To use drama to improve my students' English  
To broaden my students' minds  
To develop global citizenship and delight in cross cultural friendship.

#### Can you give me a taster?

1) Plays: This is a remote play "I will wait until they open the gate" - performed live from Gaza to an audience in Turkey <https://youtu.be/wk562fxtPPM>

2. A game: This is a game called 'How many words..?'  
<https://youtu.be/IAHuz3O97EQ?list=PLwTmDrk314J42XNB1jQpVF0YodhdTITOF>

3. Two classes meeting for the first time: This is a group of teenagers in Gaza and a group of teenagers in Montenegro  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1H7hIO-ZwY&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1H7hIO-ZwY&feature=emb_title)

#### How can an individual teacher get involved with a class in Palestine?

A session can be 20 - 50 minutes. It is best to keep it simple eg: Tell a story, Teach some vocab, Show and tell, Describe a picture etc

#### What can kids do when the two classes first meet on line?

Activities: eg Introduce selves; a person they like; a favourite thing; music they like; ask them to perform their play

#### How do you get a time slot that suits both classes?

You'll need to link to the teacher in Palestine to set it up at a time which is convenient for both of you. (Palestine is one hour ahead of Europe) HUP can help you connect to the teacher. This can be through email but it's usually easier through Whatsapp or Facebook messenger.

#### The playlist of the Hands Up 5 minute plays on Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwTmDrk314J4-rCXDiOKC1ddqCXNPs6ob>

#### Direct link to a play:

#### It's your choice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4fv2idB4m0&list=PLwTmDrk314J4-rCXDiOKC1ddqCXNPs6ob&index=3&t=91s>

### **What's the best way to watch a play?**

- Before you meet the Palestinian class you and your class could watch their youtube video play to get tuned in, prepare the language etc
- Some plays have subtitles. Watch it without, and then with subtitles...
- When you meet the Palestine class you can ask them to perform their play LIVE for your class.
- And then your class can tell the actors their thoughts about it. And the actors can say what the play means to them

### **The simple rules of remote theatre:**

Max 5 minutes, Max 5 people, In English, Written by the kids (with teacher help), filmed on a static mobile phone, and all in one 'take'

### **What are the tips for getting good results when making a remote play?**

- Watch some of the plays on Youtube and see what they do well, or not
- Define the stage area and use it all
- Make use of close up to the camera / mic, which gives nice vision and better sound
- Get kids to project their voices, but not to SHOUT
- Here are some plays that make imaginative and original use of ZOOM:  
'The play of the play' - <https://youtu.be/ftzm3FZh6zA?list=PLwTmDrk314J4-rCXDiOKC1ddqCXNPs6ob>  
'Welcome to Earth' - <https://youtu.be/IYZUPddoAK8?list=PLwTmDrk314J4-rCXDiOKC1ddqCXNPs6ob>

### **The software we use is ZOOM.**

- This is better than Skype because a) it works OK when the internet is weak b) it's very easy to record the sessions, c) you can use a virtual background (green screen), d) you can screen share and webcam share at the same time.
- You can download ZOOM here for free <https://zoom.us/download>

### **What are the top tips for using Zoom?**

- Try to find a place with an internet speed of at least 10 mbps and used a wired (ethernet) connection if possible - as it's usually more stable.
- Use a simple background - it's easier to focus on what the kids are saying/doing
- Encourage the kids to make eye contact as much as possible by looking straight into the green light of the webcam
- Encourage people to take turns to come up to the webcam and not take too long. Two to four is a good number of people to be there at the same time, and is usually more comfortable than being alone (especially for people who are new to this)
- Use the built-in microphone on your computer and encourage the kids to get as close as possible to it when they speak.

### **Two articles about my trip to Gaza with Nick in 2019**

<https://hastingsonlinetimes.co.uk/hot-topics/young-people/my-trip-with-the-children-of-the-hands-up-project>

<https://hastingsonlinetimes.co.uk/hot-topics/young-people/hands-up-project-puts-young-palestinians-in-touch-with-the-outside-world>

AU March 2020