

for children

# hello

## PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

How can you greet someone in Arabic, one of the languages of Palestine and Israel?



# marhaba

 (Say "MAR-ha-bah")

**My name is Rand Ajarma.**

**Age: 14**

**Lives in: Bethlehem, West Bank, Palestine**

I live with my mom, my two sisters and my brother in Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem; my father passed away last year. After school, I usually have classes in *dabka* (traditional Palestinian folk dancing) or music practice, and I like to play soccer, draw and read. My other hobbies are playing soccer, drawing and reading. Also, I'm always interested in learning more and more about Palestine because there is so much to learn and so much that is hidden or untold. I think all people should take more interest in Palestine and learn about the peoples' roots and culture to keep it alive.

I started attending an MCC-supported summer camp when I was 5 years old, and I've participated in it every year since then. Sometimes we get to go on field trips to different areas in Palestine that we've never seen before or go swimming on a hot day. I also really enjoy our water balloon fights.

**My favorite food: lasagna**

**My favorite subject: social studies**

**What I want to be: psychologist, journalist or interior designer**

### Olive, I love you

The olive tree, perhaps the most common tree here, is deeply valued for its ability to thrive and send down deep roots in a land where water is hard to come by. You'll find olive trees everywhere — in gardens, parks, roadsides and the yards of churches, synagogues, mosques and schools.



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