

Name:

Day One

The War Begins

Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out why America declared war on Iraq in 2003. Read silently.

On March 19, 2003, Americans turned on their televisions to watch President Bush. He gave a somber speech. The U.S. had decided to go to war with Iraq. Bush explained the goals. He wanted to “disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger.”

The U.S. worried that Iraq was becoming a threat to world peace. Iraq was led by a dictator: Saddam Hussein. Many people believed that he was hiding weapons of mass destruction, WMDs. WMDs, such as nuclear and chemical weapons, could do great damage. Could these weapons be used against the U.S.? Americans had seen terrorists attack our country on 9/11. What if Saddam gave poison gas or nuclear bombs to terrorists? Could they breach our borders? Were our cities safe?

Another goal of the Iraq War was to free the Iraqi people. Saddam’s government killed and tortured people who spoke out against him. Minority groups were suppressed. Prisons were full of political prisoners. Most Americans thought Iraq would be better off with Saddam gone. We wanted Iraq to be a democratic state. In his speech, Bush told the U.S. military, “the hopes of an oppressed people now depend on you.”

In March 2003, most Americans were in favor of war. Thirty-five other countries, including South Korea and El Salvador, pledged to help. Americans expected a quick victory. But other voices warned that a long, difficult war was ahead.



Day One The War Begins

// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

On March 19, 2003, Americans turned on their televisions to watch President Bush. He gave a somber speech. The U.S. had decided to go to war with Iraq. Bush explained the goals. He wanted to “disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger.” 49

The U.S. worried that Iraq was becoming a threat to world peace. Iraq was led by a dictator: Saddam Hussein. Many people believed that he was hiding weapons of mass destruction, WMDs. WMDs, such as nuclear and chemical weapons, could do great damage. Could these weapons be used against the U.S.? Americans had seen terrorists attack our country on 9/11. What if Saddam gave poison gas or nuclear bombs to terrorists? Could they breach our borders? Were our cities safe? 66
79
91
104
120
130

Another goal of the Iraq War was to free the Iraqi people. Saddam’s government killed and tortured people who spoke out against him. Minority groups were suppressed. Prisons were full of political prisoners. Most Americans thought Iraq would be better off with Saddam gone. We wanted Iraq to be a democratic state. In his speech, Bush told the U.S. military, “the hopes of an oppressed people now depend on you.” 145
157
171
188
200

In March 2003, most Americans were in favor of war. Thirty-five other countries, including South Korea and El Salvador, pledged to help. Americans expected a quick victory. But other voices warned that a long, difficult war was ahead. 214
227
239

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why did the U.S. declare war on Iraq?

What is a WMD?

Day One

The War Begins

Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

On March 19, / 2003, / Americans turned on their televisions / to watch President Bush. // He gave a somber speech. // The U.S. had decided to go to war with Iraq. // Bush explained the goals. // He wanted to / “disarm Iraq, / to free its people / and to defend the world from grave danger.” //

The U.S. worried that Iraq was becoming a threat to world peace. // Iraq was led by a dictator: / Saddam Hussein. // Many people believed that he was hiding weapons of mass destruction, / WMDs. // WMDs, / such as nuclear and chemical weapons, / could do great damage. // Could these weapons be used against the U.S.? // Americans had seen terrorists attack our country / on 9/11. // What if Saddam gave poison gas / or nuclear bombs to terrorists? // Could they breach our borders? // Were our cities safe? //

Another goal of the Iraq War was to free the Iraqi people. // Saddam’s government killed and tortured people / who spoke out against him. // Minority groups were suppressed. // Prisons were full of political prisoners. // Most Americans thought Iraq would be better off / with Saddam gone. // We wanted Iraq to be a democratic state. // In his speech, / Bush told the U.S. military, / “the hopes of an oppressed people / now depend on you.” //

In March 2003, / most Americans were in favor of war. // Thirty-five other countries, / including South Korea and El Salvador, / pledged to help. // Americans expected a quick victory. // But other voices warned that a long, / difficult war was ahead. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.