

Name:

Day One

Iraq & the U.S.: How Did the Conflict Start?

Part 1: Silent read

➔ How did Iraq and the U.S. end up at war? Read silently.

Iraq is an oil-rich nation. It has oil supplies of over 100 billion barrels. The U.S., on the other hand, has only 20 billion barrels. Our country uses millions of barrels of oil each day. We need oil to keep our cars and power plants running. We need oil to heat our homes in winter. Since our own supply can run out, we keep a close watch on places with large oil reserves.

In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, another oil-rich nation. The invasion was led by Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein. His goal was to take over Kuwait's oil supply. The U.S. responded quickly. Our leaders demanded that Saddam pull back. He refused. We invaded. Our leaders promised to free the Kuwaiti people. Faced with much stronger forces, the Iraqis retreated. In seven months, the Gulf War was over.

The 1990 Gulf War ended quickly but left anger on both sides. The U.S. suspected Saddam was planning more violence. Saddam would not let inspectors check for illegal weapons. In response, the U.S. blocked supplies and aid from entering Iraq. This enraged Saddam. He said outsiders were trying to control his country.

Ten years later, the 9/11 attacks raised new fears about Iraq. President Bush said Saddam was connected to the 9/11 terrorists. He also warned that Saddam was building dangerous weapons. What if Saddam gave poison gas to terrorists? Or a nuclear bomb? These fears helped spark a new war in 2003.



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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53
71
74

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89
103
115
128
140

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155
168
182
192

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208
223
237
245

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why didn't Iraq and the U.S. get along?

After 9/11, what was one U.S. fear about Iraq?

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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.

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Ten years later, / the 9/11 attacks raised new fears about Iraq. // President Bush said Saddam was connected / to the 9/11 terrorists. // He also warned / that Saddam was building dangerous weapons. // What if Saddam gave poison gas to terrorists? // Or a nuclear bomb? // These fears helped spark a new war / in 2003. //

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