

Name:

## Day One

# Iraq and the U.S.

### Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out what set the stage for war between these countries. Read silently.

When two people fight, there is usually a back story. He never shows me respect. She always lies. These feelings build up, and there is bad blood. When countries go to war, history sets the stage for the conflict.

Iraq is a Middle Eastern nation of about 30 million people. It has oil supplies of over 100 billion barrels. The U.S. is a powerful country with over 300 million people. However, we have oil reserves of only 20 billion barrels. We need millions of barrels each day to run our cars and power plants and heat our homes. Since our own supply can run out, we keep a close eye on oil-rich countries like Iraq.

In 1990, Iraq saw an opportunity to gain even more oil and invaded a neighboring country, Kuwait. Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein, led the invasion. U.S. leaders demanded that Saddam pull back. He refused. We invaded. In less than a year, Iraq had retreated, and the Gulf War was over.

The Gulf War ended quickly, but anger and distrust remained. Saddam felt the U.S. had meddled in Middle Eastern affairs. He refused to let inspectors check Iraq for illegal weapons. In response, the U.S. blocked supplies and aid from entering Iraq.

Ten years later, the 9/11 attacks raised new fears. President Bush claimed that Saddam had WMDs and was connected to the 9/11 terrorists. With the bad blood between the two countries, these claims were easy to believe. The stage was set for a new war.



## Day One

// one minute

# Iraq and the U.S.

### Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

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### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why didn't Iraq and the U.S. trust each other?

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Why did the U.S. take a special interest in Iraq?

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## Day One

# Iraq and the U.S.

### 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.

When two people fight, / there is usually a back story. // He never shows me respect. // She always lies. // These feelings build up, / and there is bad blood. // When countries go to war, / history sets the stage for the conflict. //

Iraq is a Middle Eastern nation / of about 30 million people. // It has oil supplies of over 100 billion barrels. // The U.S. is a powerful country / with over 300 million people. // However, / we have oil reserves of only 20 billion barrels. // We need millions of barrels each day / to run our cars and power plants / and heat our homes. // Since our own supply can run out, / we keep a close eye on oil-rich countries like Iraq. //

In 1990, / Iraq saw an opportunity to gain even more oil / and invaded a neighboring country, / Kuwait. // Iraq's president, / Saddam Hussein, / led the invasion. // U.S. leaders demanded that Saddam pull back. // He refused. // We invaded. // In less than a year, / Iraq had retreated, / and the Gulf War was over. //

The Gulf War ended quickly, / but anger and distrust remained. // Saddam felt the U.S. had meddled in Middle Eastern affairs. // He refused to let inspectors check Iraq for illegal weapons. // In response, / the U.S. blocked supplies and aid / from entering Iraq. //

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