

**Name:**

## **Day One**

# **The War Begins**

### **Part 1: Silent read**

➔ How did the Iraq War start? Read silently.

On March 19, 2003, many Americans turned on their televisions to watch President Bush. They learned that the United States had declared war against Iraq, a nation in the Middle East. Bush explained the goals. We want to “disarm Iraq, to free its people, and to defend the world.” He hoped “all those who serve will return safely and soon.”

The U.S. worried that Iraq was becoming a danger to world peace. Many believed that Iraq was hiding weapons of mass destruction, WMDs. WMDs, such as nuclear weapons, could do great damage. A major goal of the war was to stop Iraq from making WMDs. An added fear was that Iraq could give these weapons to terrorists. Americans had seen terrorists attack our country on September 11, 2001.

In going to war, President Bush said we would free the people of Iraq. Iraq had been ruled by a dictator, Saddam Hussein. Saddam’s government killed and tortured people who opposed him. Minority groups were suppressed. Prisons were full of political prisoners. Many Americans felt Iraq would be better off with Saddam gone. We wanted Iraq to be free to elect its leaders.

In March 2003, most Americans supported the war. Thirty-five other countries, including Albania, the Netherlands, and Colombia, pledged to help. Although Bush warned that the war could be longer and more difficult, many expected a quick victory.



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// one minute

## Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

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## Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

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

What is a WMD?

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