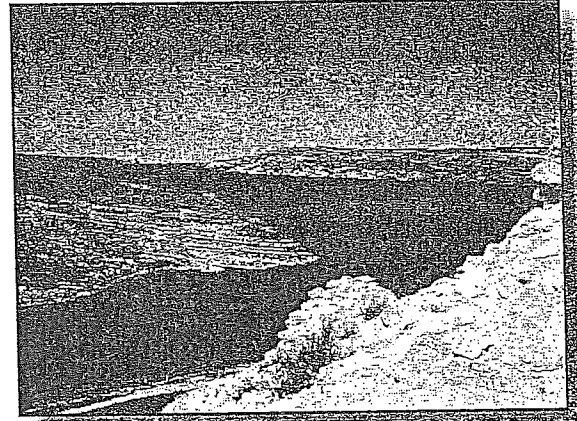


Iraq - Desert, Oil and Saddam Hussein

The geographical area in which the country of Iraq is located has been home to people and civilizations for countless generations. Some of the world's oldest civilizations and cities, in fact, were located in what is now Iraq. Only since 1921, however, has this land been known as "Iraq".



Euphrates River, Iraq

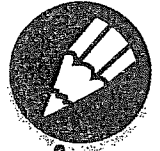
Iraq is located in southwest Asia and is the world's 58th largest country. It is roughly twice the size of the state of Kansas. Its population-- (about 27 million) is slightly larger than that of Texas. Although much of Iraq is sandy desert, it is blessed with the presence of two mighty rivers that run through the country - the **Tigris** and **Euphrates**. These rivers are major assets to farming in this region. As you might expect in a desert region, Iraq's summers are very hot - but its winters are quite cool - especially in the mountainous area to the north.

The **Arabic** people, for the most part, control Iraqi society. They make up about three-quarters of the population. Sixty percent of Iraq's population are Shiite Muslim Arabs. A minority, the Sunni Muslim Arabs, has been the group that has governed the country for most of the past 100 years. The Kurds are the third-largest group, are mostly located in the northeastern corner of the country, and for many years had been persecuted. They are also Sunni Muslims.



How might the presence of different ethnic groups and different Muslim sects spell trouble for Iraq?

Only about half of Iraq's very limited arable land is under cultivation. Nevertheless, many Iraqis make their living growing such crops as rice, corn, and dates. Many people in Iraq make their living in the **oil industry**. This is by far the most important industry in the country - and in the entire Middle East region. It is thought that Iraq has the second largest oil reserves in the world, buried under the sands of its deserts. It is this great wealth that has been the source of many of the terrible troubles that Iraq has gone through in the past thirty years - three major wars, and a number of bloody rebellions.



Iraq – Desert, Oil and Saddam Hussein

From 1979 until 2003 Iraq was ruled by the Baath Party and its leader, **Saddam Hussein**. The Baath Party was known for its hatred of anything Western or American. Saddam Hussein was born in a small remote village, and for most of his adult life had one burning ambition - to become President of Iraq. Shortly after taking control of the country, Hussein had many of his rivals killed or imprisoned, and for the next twenty-five years he ruled the country with an iron fist.



British Soldiers pose with a portrait of Saddam Hussein, taken from a Baath Party building

How might Hussein's hatred of the West have made difficulties for his country, especially since it is Western nations that buy most of Iraq's oil?

A graphic of a stop sign with the word "STOP" written in white on a black background, surrounded by radiating lines.

STOP

It wasn't long after taking control of Iraq that Hussein led his nation into war with neighboring **Iran**. It was a terrible war that lasted for eight long years and took the lives of 200,000 Iraqi soldiers. It was also terribly expensive, and almost bankrupted the country. Soon after the end of the Iraq-Iran War, the **Kurdish tribes** in the north began an uprising. Thousands of Kurds died when Iraqi troops used poisonous gas against them.

It probably should have come as no surprise to the world when, in 1990, the unpredictable Saddam Hussein made one of the most important decisions (and greatest errors) of his life, and ordered his troops to invade the neighboring country of Kuwait, setting off the **Persian Gulf War**.



Iraq – Desert, Oil and Saddam Hussein

1. Match the words in the box below with the correct statement.

Kurds	Sunnis	Baath	Iran
-------	--------	-------	------

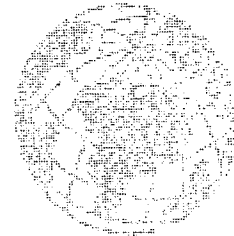
- A
- B
- C
- D

- The Moslem group that has governed Iraq for much of the last century.
- One of Iraq's neighbors.
- A people living in the mountainous region of northeastern Iraq.
- The political party to which Saddam Hussein belonged.

2. Put a check mark (✓) next to the answer that is most correct.

a) Iraq is about twice the size of:

- A. Rhode Island
- B. Alaska
- C. California
- D. Kansas



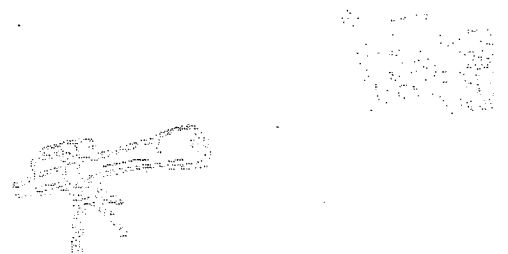
b) The two rivers running through Iraq are:

- A. Tigris and Euphrates
- B. Tiger and Eucalyptus
- C. Telus and Utica
- D. none of the above



c) Saddam Hussein ruled Iraq from:

- A. 1956-2001
- B. 1987-1999
- C. 1979-2003
- D. 1978-2007



NAME: _____

After You Read 



Iraq - Desert, Oil and Saddam Hussein

3. Answer each question with a full sentence.

A) What troubles has the country of Iraq experienced during the past thirty years or so?

B) How do you think Saddam Hussein's rule might have added to Iraq's problems?

Research

The Middle East has been in the news almost daily for the last several years. Iraq, of course, is just one country of many making up this region of the world. Choose a nation from the list below and compile an **Information Sheet** on it. You may wish to include on the sheet information about the size of the country, its location, population, agricultural products, industry, etc. Your report should total about a half-page in length.

Saudi Arabia

Kuwait

Iran

Israel

Syria

Jordan



Operation Iraqi Freedom

The military strategy for **Operation Iraqi Freedom** was different from the strategy for the Persian Gulf War. Instead of a long bombing campaign before the invasion, the air attack and invasion were planned for the same time. The Americans also used a much smaller military force for this war. Some military experts even felt that the invasion force was too small to win such a war. These experts knew that although the Iraqi army had grown weaker over the years, it still numbered about 400,000 men.



After the bombing attack that was meant to kill Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi army began firing surface-to-surface missiles at coalition bases in Kuwait and setting fire to oil wells in southern Iraq.

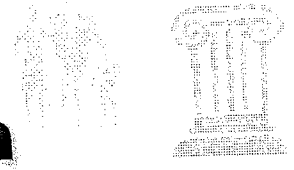
On the night of March 21, 2003, coalition forces streamed into southern Iraq and a massive aerial assault was launched against the capital city of Baghdad, destroying many important military targets. These air attacks were referred to as a "shock and awe" campaign. This alone, though, did not topple Hussein's government.



Why do you think the American military thought they could win this war with fewer soldiers than they had used in the Persian Gulf War?

The coalition forces quickly captured two airfields in western Iraq to prevent them from launching Scud missile attacks against Israel – as they had in the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

The strategy of the coalition commanders was to bypass most of the major cities in the south and focus on taking Baghdad, the capital city and the center of Saddam Hussein's authority in the country. Coalition armies would first be met by cheering crowds, but also quickly came to face massive civil disorder and chaos.



Operation Iraqi Freedom

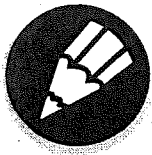
1. With a straight line, connect each word on the left with its meaning on the right.

A	campaign
B	expert
C	earnest
D	awe
E	topple
F	prevent
G	expect
H	commander
I	advance
J	oppress

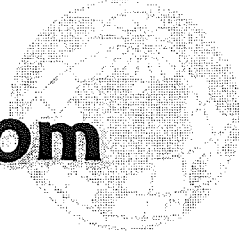
to stop	1
to put down or suppress.	2
chief officer or leader	3
to move or bring forward	4
a military operation	5
a person with a special skill	6
sincere	7
feeling of admiration or fear	8
to conquer or defeat	9
to look forward to	10

2. The coalition's military invasion of Iraq was given the name Operation Iraqi Freedom. Do you feel this is a suitable name? Defend your answer.

3. The coalition forces felt that the Iraqi people would welcome them as liberators. Do you feel there was a good chance of this happening? Why or why not?



Operation Iraqi Freedom



1. Fill in each blank with the correct word from the reading.

- a) A lengthy _____ campaign before the invasion of Iraq was not planned by the coalition leaders this time.
- b) The military planners of Operation Iraqi Freedom planned the land invasion and the _____ attack for the same time.
- c) The Americans also had a much _____ force compared to that in the 1991 Persian Gulf War.
- d) It was thought that the Iraqi army numbered about _____ men.
- e) The first coalition bombing attack was an attempt to kill _____.
- f) The war began on _____, 2003.

2. **Circle** the correct answers.

- a) The air attack on Baghdad was called:
steel rain shock and awe punishment alley freedom fighters
- b) The coalition forces were afraid the Iraqis would fire these into Israel:
Scud missiles Patriot missiles stealth bombs hand grenades
- c) Coalition strategy was to bypass the smaller cities and concentrate on:
Damascus Karbala Dahuk Baghdad

NAME: _____

After You Read 



Operation Iraqi Freedom

3. Answer each question with complete sentences.

a) Why do you think the Iraqis set fire to their own oil wells?

b) Why do you think the Americans were so concerned about Israel staying out of the war?

c) Why do you think coalition leaders expected the conflict to end quickly and without much effort? Why didn't it?

Research

The Prime Minister of Great Britain at this time was **Tony Blair**. It was Prime Minister Blair who provided much in the way of military assistance and moral support to the Americans in this war. He was Prime Minister from 1997 to 2007. Blair is the British Labor Party's longest-serving Prime Minister and the only person to have led the Labor Party to three consecutive general election victories.

Write a brief report (about one-half page) about Prime Minister Blair's life and accomplishments.



The Fall Of Baghdad

1. Complete each sentence with a word from the list. Use a dictionary to help you.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| outskirts | desperate | protective | parachuted |
| discouraged | elite | retreat | interior |

- a) The Iraqi army began to _____ as the coalition forces approached the city.
- b) The Republican Guard divisions were the _____ soldiers in Saddam Hussein's army.
- c) My parents bought a house on the _____ of Chicago.
- d) I think she was very _____ after losing her fifth straight tennis match.
- e) The soldiers were required to wear _____ suits when entering the lab.
- f) After being locked in the hot building all day, my cat became so _____ that she began to drink from the toilet.
- g) After checking the outside of the apartment building, the inspectors moved into the _____.
- h) The 14th Airborne Division _____ into the mountains surrounding the city.

2. **Albert Einstein** once said about war: "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." What do you think the great scientist meant?



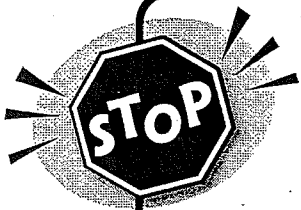
The Fall of Baghdad

The commanders of the coalition forces thought that the Iraqi army's strategy would be to keep on retreating before making a final desperate stand in Baghdad - Iraq's capital city and Saddam Hussein's headquarters. Six divisions of the elite Iraqi **Republican Guard** were stationed on the outskirts of Baghdad (a **division** usually contains between ten and twenty thousand soldiers). Another division of Republican Guard was stationed on the interior of the city.

As the coalition forces closed in on Baghdad the fear grew that Saddam Hussein might use chemical or biological weapons. Vaccinations against smallpox and anthrax were given to the coalition soldiers, and many were given protective suits to wear.



It turned out that Saddam Hussein and his army commanders had a different strategy in mind. Instead of using the famed Republican Guard, **paramilitary units** from the southern part of the country were put into battle (a paramilitary unit refers to a *group of civilians trained and organized in a military fashion*). In addition to the danger these units posed to the coalition armies, the presence of these paramilitary units in the southern part of the country also discouraged local people from welcoming the coalition forces. It therefore became necessary for the Americans and their allies to defeat these paramilitary units before continuing on to Baghdad. British forces led an operation in southern Iraq in the city of Basra, taking control of the city after a fight with Iraqi military and paramilitary forces.

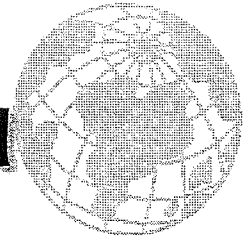


Why do you think Saddam Hussein used this strategy instead of attacking with his Republican Guard?

It was also important for coalition forces to take control of the northern part of the country. The **Kurds**, who lived in this area, had already promised the Americans support for the invasion. Over 1,000 American soldiers parachuted into this region and captured an important airfield. This then allowed the coalition forces to fly in tanks and other weapons for use in the north. Kurdish and coalition forces were then able to capture **Mosul**, the largest city in northern Iraq. In early April, only a couple of weeks after the start of the war, coalition forces approached Baghdad and seized the airport. Hussein's grip on power was gone. The beginning of the end was now in sight.



The Fall of Baghdad



1. Circle the word **TRUE** if the statement is TRUE or Circle the word **FALSE** if it is FALSE.

a) The commanders of the coalition forces thought the Iraqi army would make a final stand at Baghdad.

TRUE **FALSE**

b) Iraq's elite army divisions were known as the *Republican Guard*.

TRUE **FALSE**

c) A division in the army usually contains between one and two thousand soldiers.

TRUE **FALSE**

d) The coalition forces were worried that Saddam Hussein might use biological weapons against them.

TRUE **FALSE**

e) A paramilitary unit is one that is composed entirely of paratroopers.

TRUE **FALSE**

f) The Kurds in the north had promised to fight with the coalition armies.

TRUE **FALSE**

2. Put a check mark (✓) next to the answer that is most correct.

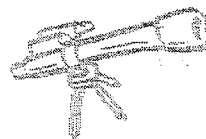
a) The largest city in northern Iraq is:

- A. Schwarzkopf
- B. Mosul
- C. Damascus
- D. Kenogami



b) Saddam Hussein's headquarters was in:

- A. Mosul
- B. Washington D.C.
- C. Baghdad
- D. he didn't have a headquarters



NAME: _____

After You Read 



The Fall of Baghdad



3. Answer each question with a complete sentence.

a) How did the use of Iraqi paramilitary units in the south complicate the plans of the coalition forces?

b) Why were the American soldiers parachuted into northern Iraq?

Research

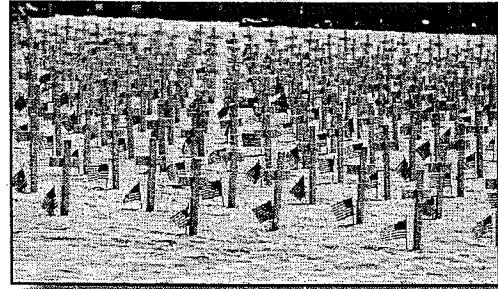
Saddam Hussein relied to a great extent on members of the **Republican Guard** to defend himself and his regime from the invading forces. Research and record several facts about the Republican Guard that you consider interesting and important. Your report should be about a half-page in length.

NAME: _____



A Soldier's Story

The Iraq War affected the lives of thousands of people - not only those of Iraqis, but also of American, British, Australian, Polish and other coalition soldiers and their families. It changed forever the lives of many soldiers who went to war in Iraq, and the lives of their families and loved ones - wives, children, parents.



Since the war began in 2003 over 4000 American soldiers have died in combat in Iraq. In addition there have been approximately 30,000 Americans wounded and over 300 combat deaths in the armies of other coalition nations.

What do these cold, hard figures mean though? What do they mean to the families of the soldiers who died or were badly wounded? Here are just three soldiers who gave their lives in the Iraq conflict:

- **Sgt Mark P. Adams:** 24 years old, killed when a homemade bomb detonated during combat operations against enemy forces in Saqlawiyah, Iraq
- **Capt. Paul C. Alaniz:** 32 years old, died when the CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter he was in crashed near Ar Rutbah in western Iraq
- **2nd Lt. Tracy Lynn Alger:** 30 years old, died of wounds suffered when a roadside bomb detonated near her vehicle in Shubayshen, Iraq



Tracy Alger was one of many female military personnel to fight in Iraq. Why do you think women weren't allowed into combat situations in most other wars historically?

What is it like to lose a loved one in a war? Soldier Timothy VanDruff lost his stepson, Lucas, to a sniper in Iraq. Here are Timothy's thoughts as he flew home to tell his wife the news: "The flight from California to Kansas City was rough because I did not know how I was going to react when I saw my wife, knowing she was torn up because she had just lost her son. We had just lost our son. I have never been that sad before. You expect to go home and it be a happy occasion. This time, it wasn't."

Thousands of people across the United States, Iraq and other countries have had to face such terrible feelings of grief after losing a loved one in Iraq. Was it all worth it? How would the families of these soldiers answer such a question?



A Soldier's Story

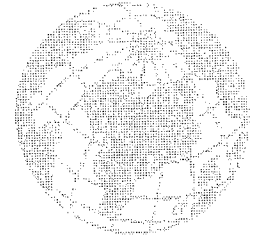
1. The expression '**torn up**' can refer to an emotional state of someone very upset or in real distress. Write a sentence using the expression 'torn up'.

2. **Synonyms** are words with similar meanings. Use the context of the sentences below to help you choose the best synonym for the underlined word in each sentence. If you need help, consult a dictionary.

- a) Statistics don't give the total picture of what happens in combat.
 A. numbers B. newspapers C. reporters D. correspondents
- b) No one expected the suitcase to detonate.
 A. leave B. explode C. circulate D. age
- c) My cousin was trained as a sniper in the war.
 A. driver B. cook C. marksman D. artillery operator
- d) Dr. Jones raises stallions at his ranch in Kansas.
 A. bison B. billy goats C. yaks D. horses
- e) No one expected her to react the way she did.
 A. curtsy B. scream C. flinch D. respond
- f) I think he expected it to be a memorable occasion.
 A. party B. event C. convention D. conference



A Soldier's Story



1. Put a check mark (✓) next to the answer that is most correct.

a) Since the war began in 2003, how many Americans have died in combat in Iraq?

- A. over 4,000
- B. over 10,000
- C. over 20,000
- D. over 100,000



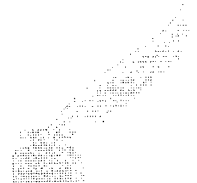
b) How was Sergeant Adams killed?

- A. a vehicle accident
- B. by a sniper
- C. by 'friendly fire'
- D. by a homemade bomb



c) In the first paragraph of this chapter four coalition countries are mentioned. Which of the following countries was not a member of the coalition?

- A. Poland
- B. Australia
- C. Canada
- D. Great Britain



d) Not including Americans, about how many coalition soldiers were killed in Iraq?

- A. over 500
- B. over 300
- C. over 1,000
- D. None



e) In what city did Timothy VanDruff's wife live?

- A. Kansas City
- B. Topeka
- C. New York City
- D. Los Angeles



NAME: _____

After You Read 



A Soldier's Story

2. Answer each question with complete sentences.

- a) What lessons do you think the coalition countries may have learned from their experiences in Iraq?

- b) *"A thing is not necessarily true because a man dies for it."*
- Oscar Wilde

What do you think about this quote from Oscar Wilde? Why might the soldiers who died in Iraq have been willing to give their lives for this cause?

Research

Pat Tillman was a professional football player who volunteered for service in the Iraq War. Unfortunately he was later killed in a 'friendly fire' incident in Afghanistan. His sacrifice made a great impression on many people, and he is remembered as a hero today.

Investigate the life of Pat Tillman using either your school library or the internet. Find out at least five interesting facts about him and prepare a report of at least a half-page in length.