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**Persian Gulf War**

1. What country was the aggressors and what country was invaded?

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2. What is the major cause of conflict between the two countries?

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3. How long did the war last after U.S. involvement? What put an end to the invasion and when did this happen?

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**The War in Afghanistan**

1. What is another name for the war in Afghanistan?

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2. What was the aim of the war?

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3. Why did the war start declining in support?

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4. What brought an end to the US involvement in the war in Afghanistan and when did this happen?

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**The War in Iraq**

1. What are WMD’s? List 3 examples of WMD’s.

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2. Why did the U.S. invade Iraq in 2003?

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3. What put an end to the military fighting in Iraq and how long did this take?

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**Excerpt from: The War in Iraq**

**Why did the U.S. invade Iraq in 2003?**

The roots of the War in Iraq go back to the Persian Gulf War. The U.N. resolution that ended the war forbade Iraq from possessing or producing chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. However, Saddam refused to give U.N. weapons inspectors free access to weapon factories, which Iraq promised to do at the end of the Persian Gulf War. For the next 12 years, world leaders worried about the possibility that Saddam was developing, or had already produced, these weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

President George W. Bush and members of his inner circle focused closely on Saddam after 9/11. Saddam himself alternately denied that he had WMDs and gave the impression that he really did have them. (Shortly before his execution, he told an F.B.I. interviewer that he’d done this to prevent Iran from seeing him as weak and vulnerable.

President Bush insisted that Saddam posed a threat to the security of the U.S. and the Middle East. In a televised address in 2003, he gave Saddam an ultimatum: leave Iraq or the U.S. military will attack Iraq and remove you. He claimed to have hard evidence that Saddam possessed WMDs, and that Iraq had aided, trained and harbored al-Qaeda terrorists, which would allow eventual U.S. invasion of Iraq. In order to pre-empt (prevent) a future terrorist attack using chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, the president said, the U.S. had the right to defend itself by removing the threat.

On March 20, 2003, American armed forces invaded Iraq. After six weeks of fighting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the central leadership went into hiding as the coalition forces completed the occupation of the country. On 1 May President George W. Bush declared victory and an end to major combat operations with the evacuation of the Iraqi leadership forces: this ended the invasion period and began the period of military occupation.

Source: <http://news-basics.com/2010/war-in-iraq/>

**Iraq**

**Kuwait**

 **The Persian Gulf War**

For many years, Iraq and Kuwait had disputed parts of the border between

their two countries. The territory near the border is desert-like, for the most

part, and desert winds whip sand around until borders can hardly be seen

for sure.

In 1990, Iraq accused Kuwait of drilling for **oil** in disputed lands. The places that Kuwait was drilling might very well be Iraqi land, Iraq argued. Kuwait argued that it was drilling in Kuwaiti territory. Both countries traded charges and countercharges, and diplomacy didn't work anymore. Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait and quickly overran the country, on August 2.

With the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Middle East worried that Iraq wouldn't stop there but would invade other countries as well. The United Nations Security Council condemned the Iraqi invasion and imposed an embargo that made it illegal for any other country to trade with Iraq. Iraq responded by claiming Kuwait as an official territory of Iraq.

The U.N. Security Council adopted sanctions (economic punishment) against Iraq, but Iraqi troops still patrolled Kuwait. Finally, in November 1990, a U.N. resolution allowed other countries to use any means necessary (including military action) to convince Iraq to leave Kuwait.

For weeks, members of the armed forces of many countries from around the world had been gathering in Saudi Arabia. The initial idea was to protect Saudi Arabia and surrounding countries from further Iraqi aggression. But the more Iraq refused to cooperate, the more these Allied troops turned their thoughts from defense to attack.

Iraq had a deadline: January 15, 1991. That day came and went, and Iraqi troops still patrolled Kuwait. Two days later, U.S. & Allied forces from 28 countries attacked Iraq militarily. The war lasted six weeks, 20,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed, and about 2,300 Iraqi civilians died as well. Allied deaths numbered in the hundreds.

On February 28, 1991, a cease-fire was announced. As Iraqi forces withdrew from Kuwait, they set fire to over 650 oil wells and damaged almost 75 more, which then spewed crude oil across the desert and into the Persian Gulf. Fires burned for ten months. Iraq agreed to give up its claims to Kuwait. Included in the agreement was a promise by Iraq that it would allow international weapons inspectors to tour weapons factories at regular intervals, to make sure that Iraq wasn't making more and more weapons like the chemical weapons that they used on their own people in 1988.

Source-<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/worldhistory/thegulfwar2.htm>

**The War in Afghanistan**

**The US puts pressure on the Taliban**

The Taliban, the ruling power in Afghanistan, were accused by the US of protecting the terrorist leader Osama Bin Laden, who attacked America on September 11, 2001. Taliban requests for negotiations with the US were rejected in favor of military action, and on October 7, 2001 the US war in Afghanistan called Operation Enduring Freedom began.

The aim of Operation Enduring Freedom was to find Osama Bin Laden, remove the Taliban from power, and prevent the use of Afghanistan as a terrorist haven. The US was supported by a broad coalition (partnership) of international forces including the Afghan Northern Alliance, United Kingdom and Canada.

**The Taliban fall from power**

Kandahar, the last major Taliban stronghold, fell on December 7, 2001, marking the end of the Taliban's rule in Afghanistan. The Taliban was excluded from the Bonn Agreement that formed a draft constitution for Afghanistan, and in 2004 Hamid Karzai was elected the country's president.

Control of operations switched to NATO’s International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in 2006. However, US troop numbers continued to grow throughout the decade in an attempt to contain the Taliban.

**A new wave of terror**

The Taliban insurgency involved increasing use of roadside bombs and suicide attacks. The numbers of NATO troops in Afghanistan grew, but this brought little success. Although there had initially been broad public support for the war in Afghanistan that started to decline, due to spiraling costs and the rising numbers of casualties. On November 20, 2010, NATO announced the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan by 2014. The plan would see control handed to the new Afghan army (ANA) and police force.

**NATO countries agree to troop withdrawal**

In June 2011 US President Barack Obama announced that 10,000 US troops would leave Afghanistan by the end of the year, and an additional 23,000 would leave by 2012. Canada withdrew all its troops in 2011, and other NATO countries pledged to reduce their military presence. In the UK, prime minster David Cameron pledged to end British combat operations in Afghanistan by 2015. During a covert operation, US Navy SEALs (a special operations force) and CIA operatives killed Osama Bin Laden on May 2, 2011, in his residential compound in Pakistan.

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/the_war_in_afghanistan>