

teennewsbreak™

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A soldier prepares ammunition in northern Kuwait, near the Iraqi border.

◀ The U.S. at War

As expected, Wednesday evening, March 19, President Bush declared war on Iraq. Bombs fell on Baghdad, Iraq's capital, and U.S. troops began their invasion. On March 17, Bush told the world that diplomatic attempts to disarm Iraq had failed. Earlier that day, the UN had rejected using force against Iraq, and Bush decided to fight Iraq without UN help. More than 30 other nations, including Britain, Bulgaria and El Salvador, joined the American side. Meanwhile, some 250,000 American and 45,000 British troops were massed at Iraq's borders. Bush's move represents a big change in American foreign policy—a pre-emptive or preventive war. Iraq had not attacked the U.S. But the President believes that Hussein has not destroyed his weapons of mass destruction, as required by the UN, and could arm terrorists in the future. Most nations in the UN Security Council had wanted to allow arms inspectors more time to continue their work. This led to the split that found the U.S. attacking without UN help or that of traditional allies, such as France, Germany and Russia.

News Clues: Newspapers have regularly reported news of military strategy debates within the Bush Administration. Does publishing this information help our enemies? Or is it a good way to encourage public debate? How much would you like to know about the war? How much should the newspaper publish?

You Tell Us! Was a pre-emptive strike against Iraq a good idea? Why or why not? What were the reasons for the U.S. attack? Could the U.S. have met its objectives in other ways? Why do some people oppose the war? Why do others support it? Why didn't the United Nations join in the war? What effect will the war have on U.S. relations with other nations? How will it affect the UN? Will the war decrease or increase terrorist actions against the U.S.? In the long term? In the short term? President Bush will ask for at least \$90 billion to fight the war. Is this a good expenditure of funds? Should we raise taxes to pay for the war or cut domestic programs? Which programs would you cut? If you were old enough to fight, would you volunteer for this war? Why or why not? Write a letter to the editor c/o PARADE Classroom,® 711 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.



Surf's Up: Visit www.paradeclassroom.com/links on the Web. You'll find links to background on Iraq from the Library of Congress and the CIA, a biography of Saddam Hussein from the BBC and breaking news. Or read a book! Try Charles Shields' "Saddam Hussein" (Chelsea House, 2002) or Phyllis Corzine's "Iraq" (Lucent, 2003).

▼ Mapping Iraq

Our nation is now at war with Iraq. How much do you know about the geography of this country and the surrounding region? Study the map and answer the questions below.

1. Immediately before the war, most U.S. troops were massed in Kuwait. Kuwait is:
 - a. north of Iraq.
 - b. on the Persian Gulf.
 - c. southeast of Iraq.
 - d. both b and c.
2. In the days before the war started, the U.S. was negotiating to station troops in Turkey. Turkey is:
 - a. east of Iraq.
 - b. west of Iraq.
 - c. north of Iraq.
 - d. south of Iraq.

3. Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, is:
 - a. on the Tigris River.
 - b. on the Euphrates River.
 - c. on the Persian Gulf.
 - d. in the eastern part of Iraq.
4. The foreign country closest to Baghdad is:
 - a. Turkey.
 - b. Iran.
 - c. Saudi Arabia.
 - d. Syria.

5. Which of these countries does NOT border Iraq?
 - a. Syria.
 - b. Saudi Arabia.
 - c. Israel.
 - d. Kuwait.
6. In the south, the Euphrates River:
 - a. flows into Syria.
 - b. meets the Tigris River.
 - c. runs into a big lake.
 - d. crosses into Turkey.

