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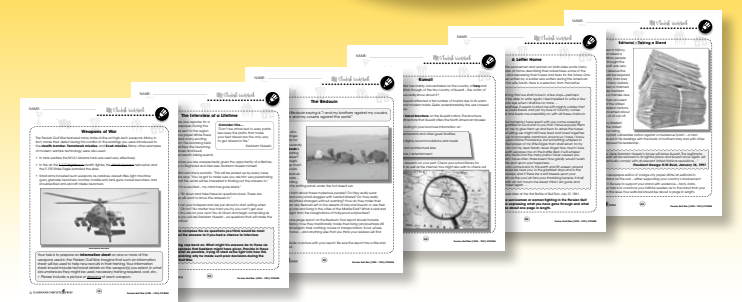
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Iraq, Oil and the Middle East

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

- | | | | |
|--------|----------|---------|-------------|
| refine | reserve | process | independent |
| unique | involved | famous | wealthy |

- Something which is very difficult or complicated is usually quite _____.
- Someone who is well-known for something is _____.
- Something that is _____ can be said to have no equal.
- If you are _____ you can make your own decisions.
- Someone who has a lot of money is _____.
- A _____ involves a series of actions.
- To _____ is to bring to a purer state.
- If something is in _____, it is being kept back or saved.

2. Briefly explain why Iraq has been in the news so often during the past few years.



Iraq, Oil and the Middle East

Few countries have been in the news as much during the past few years as **Iraq**. Since the 1970s Iraq has been involved in three major wars against such major powers as Iran, the United States and Great Britain. Why did this happen? How did a country the size of California, and with only about 30 million people get itself into so much trouble? That is the question we will be looking at in this unit.



The country that we know as **Iraq** was actually only formed in the early 1900s. Before then it was known as **Mesopotamia** - the home to the world's first cities (i.e. Babylon) and famous for being the *cradle of civilization* and the birthplace of writing. In the 8th and 9th Centuries Iraq was one of the world's leading civilizations, rich in science, art, and literature. Today **Arabic** is the official language, although **Kurdish** has official status in the north.

The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers run through Iraq and have been a source of life in this very dry country for thousands of years. It is these two mighty rivers that provide the country with much of its farmland. Yet today the Middle East (including Iraq) is better known for its **oil** than for its food products.

STOP Why is oil such an important product in the world today?

Modern Iraq was created in 1921 after World War I, when the League of Nations divided the Middle East into a number of different countries. In 1932 Iraq was given its independence. King Faisal and his family ruled the country for a number of years until 1958 when the military led a rebellion and took power.



Iraq, Oil and the Middle East

1. Use the words in the box to answer each question.

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| Kurdish | Euphrates | Mesopotamia | Arabic |
|---------|-----------|-------------|--------|

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|
| A | <input type="text"/> | A language spoken by the majority of the people in the Middle East. |
| B | <input type="text"/> | What was once the name of the region now known as Iraq? |
| C | <input type="text"/> | The language spoken by a people living in the northern part of Iraq. |
| D | <input type="text"/> | The name of a powerful river that flows through Iraq. |

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

- What is presently Iraq's main product?
 - A. rice
 - B. dates
 - C. weapons
 - D. oil
- In what year was modern Iraq created?
 - A. 1921
 - B. 1900
 - C. 1876
 - D. 1979
- What was the name of Iraq's first king (of the 20th Century)?
 - A. King Abdul
 - B. King Farouk
 - C. King Faisal
 - D. King Sharif



A Day in the Life

It sounds like Saddam Hussein had quite a rough life as a young boy growing up in the village of Auja, Iraq. His family was poor, and his father was not a part of his life. Many young boys and girls grew up in small Iraqi villages at the same time as Saddam. Many had the same disadvantages he did, yet they grew up to be fine, productive citizens.



Your task is to investigate the life of the average boy or girl growing up in small-town Iraq during the 20th century. You may wish to consider some of the following questions:

- In what kind of a house would he/she live?
- What might his/her parents do for a living?
- What kinds of food would they have for meals?
- What kinds of recreational activities would he/she engage in?
- What kind of education could he/she expect?
- What might their social life be like?
- What role would religion play in their life?
- What kinds of clothing would he/she wear?

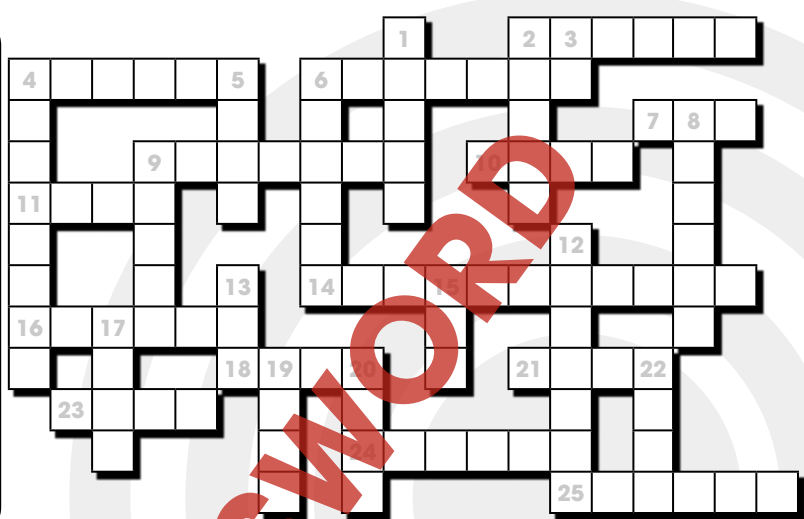
Once you have completed your investigation, compile a report and write it in the **first person** - as a young Iraqi boy or girl would write it. Your main goal is to give the reader a real taste of what it might have been like to grow up in Iraq - especially with regard to daily life.

Your report should be between one and two pages long. You may wish to include a picture or two to add to the presentation.

**Crossword Puzzle!****Word List**

ally
Arabia
Auja
Baath
Baghdad
bear
bomb
Bush
HH
Iraq
Kuwait
loan
Mesopotamia
Norman
oil

Ottoman
reeds
Saddam
Scud
Shield
sign
sky
stealth
Storm
Tigris
Tomahawk
USA
wishes
year

**Across**

2. Operation Desert _____
4. Iraqi River.
6. A high tech bomber.
7. Where planes fly.
9. Iraqi city.
10. Middle Eastern country.
11. Saddam's hometown.
14. Before 1900 Iraq was a part of _____.
16. Desires.
18. A friend in times of difficulty.
21. Many of these fell on Baghdad during this war.
23. American President during the Persian Gulf War.
24. Saudi _____.
25. Stormin' _____.

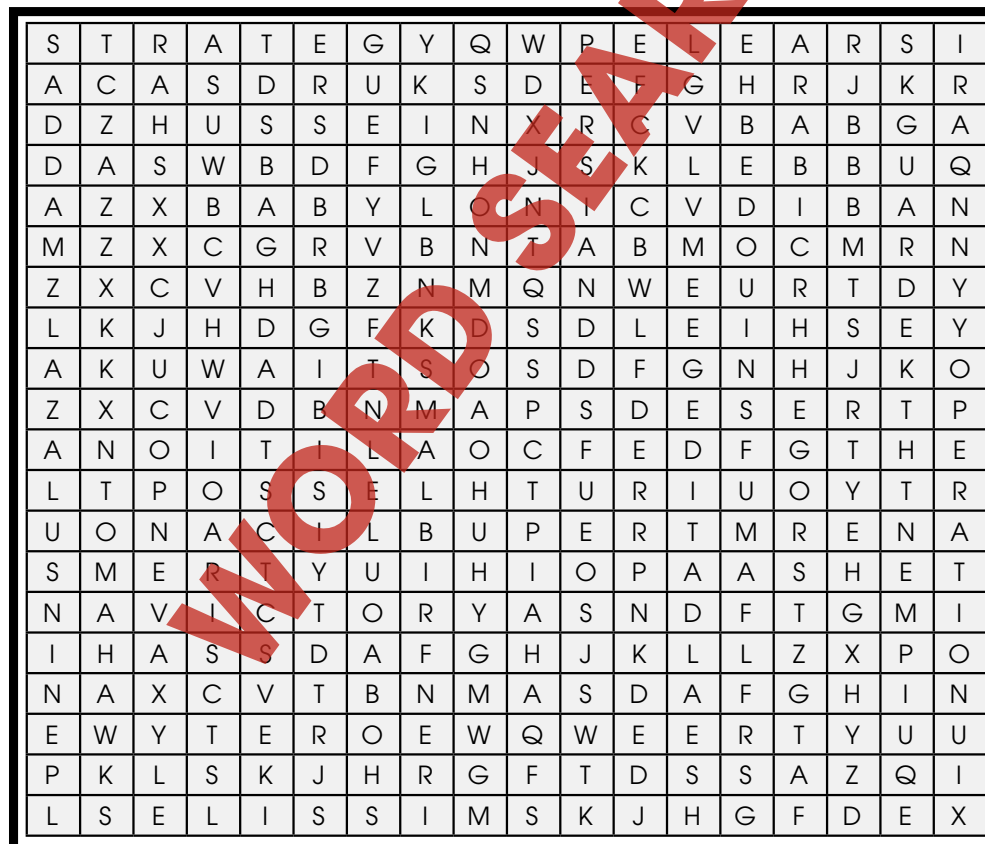
Down

1. Saddam's childhood house was made of mud and _____.
2. Operation Desert _____.
3. Abbrev. Initials of President Hubert Humphrey.
4. A missile.
5. Stop _____.
6. _____ Hussein.
8. Iraq invaded this nation.
9. Saddam's political party.
12. The _____ Empire.
13. Large North American country.
15. A resource found in Iraq and Kuwait.
17. Missile fired into Israel during war.
19. A bank may _____ you money.
20. Usually it's 365 days long.
22. This animal may be found in the mountains of Iraq.

Word Search

Find all **THIRTY** words in the Word Search. Words are written horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and some are even written backwards.

Arabic	desert	Israel	peninsula	shield
Babylon	equipment	Kurds	Persian	stealth
Baghdad	Euphrates	Kuwait	republican	storm
Bedouin	guard	missiles	ruthless	strategy
coalition	Hussein	operation	Saddam	Tomahawk
combat	Iraq	Ottoman	Schwarzkopf	victory

**Comprehension Quiz**

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Part A

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

1. Iraq is about the same size as the state of New York.
TRUE FALSE
2. The people living in northeastern Iraq are the Kurds.
TRUE FALSE
3. Saddam Hussein accused Kuwait of "slant drilling" beneath its border to steal Iraqi oil.
TRUE FALSE
4. Saddam Hussein was a member of the Baath Party.
TRUE FALSE
5. At the start of the Gulf War Iraq had over 5 million soldiers and 2,500 fighter planes.
TRUE FALSE
6. At the beginning of the war Iraq fired Scud missiles into Israel and Saudi Arabia.
TRUE FALSE
7. Although the coalition forces were victorious, the war lasted almost two whole years.
TRUE FALSE
8. The Iraqi people were most grateful that their capital city, Baghdad, had been spared any bombing by the coalition forces.
TRUE FALSE

Part B

Circle the three countries that are not located in the Gulf region.

Korea Iran Ethiopia Kuwait Saudi Arabia Pakistan Iraq

SUBTOTAL: /11

Persian Gulf War Key Figures

Saddam Hussein
5th President of Iraq
1979 - 2003



George H.W. Bush
41st U.S. President
1989 - 1993



Fahd bin Abdul Aziz
King of Saudi Arabia
1982 - 2005



Norman Schwarzkopf
US Army General, Commander-in-Chief
U.S. Central Command

NAME: _____

After You Read 



Iraq, Oil and the Middle East

3. Answer each question with a full sentence.

A) Describe briefly the circumstances that led to Saddam Hussein coming to power in Iraq.

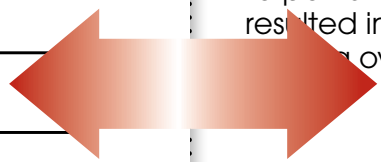
B) The last sentence of the reading selection states that the discovery of oil in Iraq has been both a blessing and a curse for its people. Why might this be true?

Research

Many famous and important people have either come from the Iraq region or have had a huge influence on the history of the area. Choose one of the people from the list below and write a one-page report on his/her life and accomplishments. If possible include a picture of him/her as well.

- Abraham of Ur
- Alexander the Great
- King Faisal
- Gertrude Bell
- Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon
- Saddam Hussein

- 3.**
- A) The military overthrew the king and took power. Gradually Saddam's political party assumed control of the government, and then Saddam took control of the party.
- B) Answers will vary. (i.e. It brought a lot of greedy people to power and resulted in countries over the
1. Tigris, Euphrates
 2. Mileh Tharthar
 3. Zagros
 4. a) Iran
b) Saudi Arabia, Kuwait
 5. Syrian Desert
 6. Damascus



EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY



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