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| **Operation Iraqi Freedom By Cindy Grigg**  |    | http://www.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/edhelp1.gif |

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|  | coalition | murder | loss | innocent |  |
|  | rebuild | beginnings | peacekeeping | baghdad |  |
|  | launched | began | beginning | recovery |  |
|  | begins | suicide | rebuilding | gain |  |
|  | diminish | Sunnis | industry |  |  |

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**Directions:**  Fill in each blank with the word that best completes the reading comprehension.

     The war in Iraq, also called "Operation Iraqi Freedom," *(1)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   in March 2003. The United States and its allies, mainly Great Britain, decided to attack Iraq for several reasons. They believed that the Iraqi government was making and storing weapons of mass destruction (WMD). They believed Iraq had missiles forbidden by the United Nations (UN). They believed Iraq was making nuclear weapons, too. They also believed that Iraq's government allowed terrorists to live in Iraq. President Bush thought that Iraq might give chemical weapons to terrorists. He thought Iraq or terrorists might use weapons of mass destruction against the U.S. and Britain.
     Since becoming dictator of Iraq in 1979, Saddam Hussein had been cruel and brutal.
     Hussein used chemical weapons against one group of Iraqi citizens, the Kurds, in 1988. Thousands of *(2)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   people, many of them women and children, died from or were injured by chemical bombs. Saddam lived in luxury, building forty palaces for himself, while many of his people were poor and starving.
     The U.S. and its allies attacked Iraq on March 20, 2003. *(3)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  , the capital city, was captured on April 9. By May 1, President Bush declared that the war was over. However, violence in Iraq continued.
     When allied troops entered Iraq, the Iraqi army tried to stop them. There were also military fighters who were not part of a regular army who fought allied troops. The Iraqis did not follow the rules of war. They used suicide bombers to attack troops. The army stored weapons in schools and hospitals. They knew that allied soldiers did not want to hurt people who might be in these buildings. They used innocent people as shields so the allied soldiers would not shoot back at them.
     Many people in the United States and around the world were against the war in Iraq. They thought the U.S. should try harder to find a peaceful solution. Others felt that Saddam Hussein must be stopped. Regardless of their feelings, the monetary cost concerned many people. The fact that no WMD have ever been found is another reason many people believe the war was wrong.
     War is very expensive. The equipment, tanks, and airplanes cost billions of dollars. The United States and its allies had to supply these items. They also had to supply food, ammunition, fuel, housing, and medical supplies for the troops. It is expensive to move all the soldiers and supplies.
     The Iraqi people, too, needed food and medical supplies. Some of the complications of war include food and water shortages, *(4)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   of electricity, homelessness, and civilian deaths. The U.S. knew the Iraqi people would need help. After the war ends, the Iraqis will need help *(5)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   their country. The U.S. and British governments plan to help.
     On December 13, 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured. He was tried and hanged in Iraq in December 2006. In October 2005, Iraqis held a free general election to choose representatives in their new government. A new Prime Minister was appointed to be the new head of Iraq's government.
     In late 2007, violence in Iraq began to slow down. Political progress for the new Iraqi government is slow as well. The Shiite-Kurd *(6)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   government cannot agree on the many issues facing Iraq. Americans are *(7)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   to demand that President Bush set a date for withdrawal of troops from Iraq. Some say it is a war that cannot be won. Estimated costs for the war and rebuilding Iraq are as high as two **trillion** dollars. Some say the cost is too high- both in dollars and in human life. Some say that keeping peace in Iraq is the job of the Iraqis, and the U.S. has no right to be there.
     Some people say that we must keep peace in Iraq. They say that if the U.S. pulls out now, it will look weak to the rest of the world. It might cause terrorists or other governments to think that they could attack the United States and win. Some people say that it is the responsibility of strong nations to take care of weaker nations. They think the United States has a responsibility to help people be free wherever they may live in the world.
     There are some good things that happened because of the war in Iraq. The Iraqi people are free of the rule of Saddam Hussein. Iraq has the *(8)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   of a democratic government where all of Iraq's people have a voice.
     Ongoing violence is still a major problem. *(9)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   and Shiites are still fighting with each other. Sunni terrorists have *(10)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   *(11)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   bombings and regularly kidnap and *(12)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   civilians. Many of Iraq's new police force have been killed by terrorists. Iraq's economy has suffered. Unemployment is widespread and pay is low. Iraq's oil *(13)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   has been greatly reduced, and there are regular attacks on the oil pipelines. Without an effective police force, *(14)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   and democracy will be difficult.
     The U.S. military presence in Iraq has been a stabilizing force in the country. Without the coalition *(15)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   forces, the violence probably would have been much worse. Coalition forces have helped to *(16)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   hospitals, schools, and plants that provide electricity and water to the people. Military forces also are constantly on guard against terrorists. As the Iraqi democratic government *(17)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   to *(18)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   control in the country, the U.S. military presence will *(19)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . The recovery of Iraq looks like a long and complex process.

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**Operation Iraqi Freedom**

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| 1.   | When did the war in Iraq, or "Operation Iraqi Freedom," begin?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gifhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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| 2.   | Which of these is **not** one of the reasons President Bush gave for attacking Iraq?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  He believed Iraq was making and storing WMD's.http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  He believed Iraq was aiding and sheltering terrorists.http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  He believed Iraq was selling oil to Russia.http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  He believed Iraq was trying to build nuclear weapons. |

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| 3.   | Who was the dictator of Iraq?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gifhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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| 4.   | Against what group of Iraqi people did Saddam Hussein use chemical warfare?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gifhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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| 5.   | Why was the war not over on April 9, 2003, when the capital city of Baghdad was captured?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gifhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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| 6.   | Who is the new head of government in Iraq?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gifhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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| 7.   | What is the cost estimates for the war and rebuilding Iraq?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gifhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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| 8.   | Give two reasons why the U.S. should keep troops in Iraq.http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gifhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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