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| **War in Afghanistan  By Sharon Fabian** |  | http://www.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/edhelp1.gif |

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**Directions:**  Fill in each blank with the word that best completes the reading comprehension.  
  
     It started with 9/11. After the *(1)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon near Washington, D.C., President Bush demanded that Afghanistan turn over al-Qaeda leaders, including Osama bin Laden. He also demanded that the terrorist training camps in Afghanistan be shut down. The leaders of Afghanistan, members of the group called the Taliban, refused. They said that there was no evidence showing that al-Qaeda was responsible for the *(2)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  .  
     In October 2001, Afghanistan offered to bring Osama bin Laden to trial in its own country. The United States refused that offer.  
     On October 7, the war began. The United States, with the *(3)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   of Great Britain and some other NATO countries, began bombing areas where al-Qaeda was located in Afghanistan. At about the same time, Osama bin Laden released a videotape calling for a jihad, or holy war, against the United States.  
     In the first stage of the war, Kabul, the *(4)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   city, was bombed. So was Kandahar, believed to be the home of *(5)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   leaders. Jalalabad, where training camps were believed to be located, was also *(6)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  .  
     In the second stage of the war, a ground *(7)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   was also waged against the Taliban forces by the Northern Alliance, an Afghan group opposed to the Taliban. Bombings by United States and British forces also continued. By November, the Taliban was forced to *(8)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   Kabul.  
     The war wasn't over yet. The Taliban and al-Qaeda forces regrouped in an area of caves called Tora Bora near the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. NATO forces searched the caves for Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaeda leaders.  
     By the end of the year, the Taliban had been removed from *(9)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   in Afghanistan. Hamid Karzai was named the interim president of Afghanistan and later officially elected as president.  
     In the meantime, the conflict was still not finished. During 2002 and 2003, the war continued with attacks by suicide bombers and roadside bombs. Taliban forces regrouped and gained strength.  
     At the same time, reconstruction efforts began. There was much that needed to be done after the destruction caused by the war. Roads, schools, and medical facilities needed to be rebuilt. Afghan *(10)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   forces needed to be trained. *(11)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   efforts provided the money and *(12)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   for some of the reconstruction, but progress was slow.  
     By 2003, much of the United States' resources were being channeled into a new effort, the war in Iraq. This left little for Afghanistan.  
     The mission of the United States and other countries there in *(13)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   years has been described as a two-sided mission. On the one hand, reconstruction is continuing. On the other hand, the fight against terrorists is still going on. For the United States, it is something of a balancing act - maintaining the trust of Afghanistan and its people and waging a war against extremist groups within Afghanistan - both at the same time. Finally, in May 2011, Osama bin Laden was found hiding in Pakistan. U.S. Navy SEALS stormed the compound. Bin Laden was killed.  
     Still, the war in Afghanistan drags on. For everyone involved, it has been a long *(14)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . However, in May 2012, the leaders of the NATO-member countries agreed to an *(15)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   strategy. NATO plans to hand over *(16)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   of all combat missions to Afghan forces by the middle of 2012. NATO's role then will be to support the Afghan troops by advising and training them. The *(17)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   plan is to remove most of the 100,000-plus NATO troops by December 2014. Only time will tell if that strategy will play out as planned.

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1. | The war in Afghanistan began in \_\_\_\_\_. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  2002 http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  2000 http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  2001 http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  2003 | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 2. | The spark that set off the war in Afghanistan was \_\_\_\_\_. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  The war in Iraq http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  The battle in Kabul http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  The Taliban taking control of Afghanistan http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  The 9/11 attack | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 3. | After the 9/11 attacks, President Bush demanded that \_\_\_\_\_. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Al-Qaeda leaders be turned over http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Terrorist training camps be shut down http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Both http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  Neither | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 4. | The conflict in Afghanistan has lasted for \_\_\_\_\_. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Three years http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  A few months http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  More than a decade http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  One year | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 5. | Osama bin Laden was finally found hiding in Pakistan. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  False http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  True | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 6. | The United States had fewer resources to spend on the war in Afghanistan after \_\_\_\_\_. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  2001 http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  9/11 http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  The battle of Kabul http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  The war in Iraq began | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 7. | \_\_\_\_\_ was elected president of Afghanistan. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  President Bush http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Taliban http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Osama bin Laden http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  Hamid Karzai | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 8. | The word \_\_\_\_\_ means rebuilding after a war. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Regrouping http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Jihad http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Reconstruction http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  Kandahar | |

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**The United States is fighting terrorists in Afghanistan, yet it is trying to maintain friendly relations with the country of Afghanistan. What are some reasons why this is a difficult task?**  
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**Why do you think the United States puts more resources into Iraq and fewer into Afghanistan?**  
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