



Teacher's Guide

Persian Gulf War: 1990-1991 **World At War**

Grade Levels:

7 - 12

Subject Areas:

World History
American History

Synopsis:

A British narrator explains that Iraqi troops occupied Kuwait in 1990 because Saddam Hussein was angry that Kuwait refused to raise oil prices. Live-action film footage captures the bombing of Baghdad and the progress of Operations Desert Saber and Desert Storm, under the leadership of General H. Norman Schwarzkopf. It also records the shock of defeat as National Guard troops, Iraqi citizens and Saddam himself, gradually realize that the fourth-largest army in the world is no match for a determined international force equipped with the latest military weapons and technology. The program closes with shots of burning oilfields and statistics of the thousands of deaths and utter devastation that could have been avoided had Saddam not been in power.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Understand that this war was fought over oil prices.
- Understand that dictators like Saddam Hussein have total control over military actions.
- Describe how coalition forces defeated Saddam's National Guard troops.
- Recall the military tactics that made General Schwarzkopf the hero of his day.

Vocabulary:

preempted, détente, sorties, pinpoint accuracy

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

In relationship to Iraq, where is Kuwait located?

Why would maintaining a good relationship with the Kuwaitis have been of benefit to Saddam Hussein?

What was the state of Iraq's oil fields after the Iran-Iraq war?

What was the state of Saddam's army after the Iran-Iraq war?

What kind of a person was Saddam Hussein?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Why did Saddam order his troops to occupy Kuwait?

What did Saddam underestimate?

What was so unusual about General Schwarzkopf's military tactics?

Why were coalition forces so successful in this war?

Were the issues that started the war resolved by the outcome of the war?

Further Activities:

Further research the military career and personality of General Schwarzkopf.

Find out how the members of Iraq's National Guard were trained for their military careers.

Further investigate the armaments that were first used in this war.

Investigate how many Kuwaiti oil fields were left in good condition at the end of this war.