Conflicts Across Decades

Trace where and why U.S. forces acted.

SS24.5.15 "Trace the United States' military involvement in international conflicts since 1980, including those following the September 11 attacks."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline the first mention of each year U.S. forces began a new military action, circle the countries where they acted, and number the four actions from earliest to latest.

Changing Military Goals

1. In 1990, Iraq's army invaded neighboring Kuwait. The next year, 1991, U.S. forces joined other countries to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait. This fighting is often called the Gulf War. U.S. troops fought far from home, but their goal was limited: free Kuwait, not take over Iraq. Kuwait regained control of its land, and most coalition troops left the area after the war.

2. In 2001, the September 11 attacks by al-Qaeda killed thousands of people in the United States. Soon afterward, U.S. forces entered Afghanistan. They aimed to stop al-Qaeda and remove the Taliban government that had sheltered its leaders. Unlike the short Gulf War, U.S. troops stayed in Afghanistan for many years. The last U.S. troops left Afghanistan in 2021, though the country still faced serious problems.

3. In 2003, U.S. forces led an invasion of Iraq and removed its ruler, Saddam Hussein. This was a new war, not a return to the earlier goal of freeing Kuwait. Years later, in 2014, U.S. forces began airstrikes against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. ISIS was an armed group that had seized land there. U.S. involvement had shifted again, this time toward fighting that group.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did U.S. forces join the fighting in Kuwait in 1991, and what was their goal?

2. How was the U.S. action in Afghanistan connected to the September 11 attacks?

3. How was the U.S. military goal in Iraq in 2003 different from its goal in Kuwait in 1991?

4. What new action did U.S. forces begin in 2014, and where did they act?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-stop audio tour that traces U.S. military involvement in 1991, 2001, 2003, and 2014. Use one sentence for each stop, naming the place and action, and include a comparison between two stops.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline the first mention of each year U.S. forces began a new military action, circle the countries where they acted, and number the four actions from earliest to latest. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did U.S. forces join the fighting in Kuwait in 1991, and what was their goal?	**Iraq had invaded Kuwait. U.S. forces joined other countries to drive Iraqi troops out and free Kuwait.**
2	How was the U.S. action in Afghanistan connected to the September 11 attacks?	**After al-Qaeda attacked the United States, U.S. forces entered Afghanistan to stop al-Qaeda and remove the Taliban government that had sheltered its leaders.**
3	How was the U.S. military goal in Iraq in 2003 different from its goal in Kuwait in 1991?	**In 2003, U.S. forces invaded Iraq and removed Saddam Hussein. In 1991, their goal was to free Kuwait.**
4	What new action did U.S. forces begin in 2014, and where did they act?	**They began airstrikes against ISIS in Iraq and Syria.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1991, U.S. forces helped drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait. In 2001, U.S. forces entered Afghanistan to fight al-Qaeda and remove the Taliban government that sheltered its leaders. In 2003, U.S. forces invaded Iraq and removed Saddam Hussein, a different goal from freeing Kuwait. In 2014, U.S. forces began airstrikes against ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the actions, places, and goals in the passage. For the audio tour, look for the four events in order and one accurate comparison.