# Victory and Limits

Evaluate the coalition that responded to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

**USH.C.8.3.A** "Evaluate the effectiveness of the international coalition to counter Iraqi aggression in the Persian Gulf."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two details that support a judgment that the coalition was effective. Circle two details that limit that judgment, then number the four details in the order you would use them to explain your view.

### What Did the Coalition Achieve?

1. On August 2, 1990, Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait, a smaller neighbor with major oil reserves. Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, claimed Kuwait as Iraqi territory. The United Nations Security Council condemned the invasion and imposed economic sanctions. When Iraq refused to withdraw, the council authorized member states to use force after January 15, 1991, if Iraq still occupied Kuwait. The United States organized a coalition of more than 30 countries. Its stated aim was to drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait, not to conquer Iraq. This shared aim gave governments with different interests a reason to act together.

2. Cooperation took several forms. Saudi Arabia hosted coalition troops and helped finance the campaign. Egypt and Syria sent forces, showing that opposition to Iraq was not limited to Western governments. Other members supplied troops, aircraft, ships, or money. The coalition began air attacks on January 17, 1991, and launched a ground offensive on February 24. Iraqi forces were pushed out of Kuwait, and a cease-fire took effect on February 28. The speed of the campaign showed what shared resources could accomplish. Yet retreating Iraqi forces set fire to Kuwaiti oil wells, leaving serious damage after the fighting stopped.

3. Judging the coalition depends on the goal used to measure it. Kuwait regained its independence, and the UN demand that Iraq withdraw was enforced. Those results suggest the coalition succeeded at reversing a cross-border invasion. But Saddam Hussein remained in power in Iraq after the cease-fire. His government later crushed uprisings, and regional tensions continued. Some coalition leaders had limited their mission to expelling Iraqi troops, partly to keep partners united. Overthrowing Iraq's government was not the agreed objective. A verdict about lasting peace, therefore, may be less favorable than a verdict about freeing Kuwait.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did a UN action strengthen the coalition's response to Iraq? Support your judgment with one action from the passage.

2. Did participation by countries near Iraq make the coalition's response more effective? Use two details to support your judgment.

3. How effective was the military campaign at meeting the coalition's stated aim? Cite the result that best supports your judgment.

4. Why might someone judge the coalition less effective at securing lasting peace than at freeing Kuwait? Use two details from the passage.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create a headline for a museum display about the coalition. Then write four or five sentences defending it with one military result, one example of international cooperation, and one consequence after the war; explain why your headline gives a balanced judgment.

ANSWER KEY

# Victory and Limits

HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.8.3.A

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that support a judgment that the coalition was effective. Circle two details that limit that judgment, then number the four details in the order you would use them to explain your view. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did a UN action strengthen the coalition's response to Iraq? Support your judgment with one action from the passage. | **The Security Council authorized member states to use force if Iraq did not withdraw, giving the coalition international backing for military action.** |
| 2 | Did participation by countries near Iraq make the coalition's response more effective? Use two details to support your judgment. | **Yes. Saudi Arabia hosted troops and helped finance the campaign, while Egypt and Syria sent forces. Their participation supplied resources and showed that opposition to the invasion extended beyond Western governments.** |
| 3 | How effective was the military campaign at meeting the coalition's stated aim? Cite the result that best supports your judgment. | **It met its stated aim: coalition forces pushed Iraqi forces out of Kuwait, which regained its independence.** |
| 4 | Why might someone judge the coalition less effective at securing lasting peace than at freeing Kuwait? Use two details from the passage. | **Saddam Hussein remained in power, and his government later crushed uprisings. Regional tensions also continued, so freeing Kuwait did not bring lasting peace.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Headline: Kuwait Freed, Peace Unfinished. Coalition forces pushed Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, meeting their stated military aim. Saudi Arabia hosted troops and helped pay for the campaign, making that effort possible. After the cease-fire, Saddam Hussein remained in power, and his government crushed uprisings. The headline recognizes a clear success without claiming that the war solved the region's deeper problems.

Accept different judgments when students measure effectiveness against a stated goal and support their reasoning with accurate passage details. For Part 3, look for a headline and a defense that addresses both achievement and limitation.