Measuring Bush's Policies

Goals, actions, and limits at home and abroad

USH.C.8.3 "Describe the policy goals of President George H.W. Bush. 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 Bush's policy goals, circle actions taken to reach them, and put a star beside a result or limitation for each policy.

What Counts as Success?

1. When George H. W. Bush became president in 1989, the Cold War was ending, but new choices demanded attention. He sought a stable international order in which countries respected borders and the United States worked with allies rather than acting alone. At home, he faced demands to remove barriers that kept people with disabilities from full participation. These goals did not always lead to simple victories. A successful policy might stop an invasion yet leave a dictator in power, or create legal rights that still took years to put into practice.

2. In August 1990, Iraq's ruler, Saddam Hussein, sent troops into neighboring Kuwait and claimed it as Iraqi territory. Bush sought to reverse the invasion and defend the principle that a powerful country could not seize a smaller one. He assembled an international coalition, won United Nations authorization to use force if Iraq did not withdraw, and sent U.S. troops to the region. In early 1991, coalition forces drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait after a short ground campaign. Kuwait regained its independence, showing that the coalition achieved its stated goal. Yet Hussein remained in power in Iraq, so the victory did not settle every threat.

3. In December 1989, Bush sent U.S. troops into Panama to remove General Manuel Noriega. The administration cited threats to Americans in Panama, Noriega's role in drug trafficking, and his refusal to honor an election his opponent had won. U.S. forces removed Noriega, but the invasion killed civilians and raised questions about Panama's sovereignty. In 1990, Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act. It banned disability discrimination in employment, public services, and businesses open to the public, and required steps such as reasonable workplace accommodations. The law made equal access a national civil rights obligation, although enforcing that promise took continuing work.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Bush's response to Iraq reflect his foreign policy goals?

2. How effective was the coalition in the Persian Gulf? Give one success and one limit from the passage.

3. What reasons did the administration give for sending troops into Panama, and what concern did the invasion raise?

4. Why was the Americans with Disabilities Act significant, and what is one step it required?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a brief museum label titled "What Counts as Success?" Compare two Bush-era policies from the passage. Make a claim about why judging their success takes more than one measure, and include a concrete detail about each policy.

ANSWER KEY

Measuring Bush's Policies

HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.8.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Bush's policy goals, circle actions taken to reach them, and put a star beside a result or limitation for each policy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Bush's response to Iraq reflect his foreign policy goals?	**He worked with allies and sought United Nations authorization to reverse Iraq's seizure of Kuwait and defend national borders.**
2	How effective was the coalition in the Persian Gulf? Give one success and one limit from the passage.	**The coalition drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait and restored its independence, but Hussein remained in power in Iraq.**
3	What reasons did the administration give for sending troops into Panama, and what concern did the invasion raise?	**It cited threats to Americans, Noriega's drug trafficking, and his refusal to honor the election. Civilian deaths and questions about Panama's sovereignty raised concerns.**
4	Why was the Americans with Disabilities Act significant, and what is one step it required?	**It made equal access a national civil rights obligation and required steps such as reasonable workplace accommodations.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

What Counts as Success? The Gulf coalition met its immediate goal when it drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait, but Hussein remained in power. The Americans with Disabilities Act created national protections against discrimination, yet those protections still had to be enforced. One measure of success is whether a policy reaches its first goal. Another is whether it solves the larger problem over time.

Accept supported claims that distinguish an immediate result from a remaining problem. For the museum label, students may compare any two of the three policies discussed in the passage.