



Iraq: Resources for The Classroom

Prepared by Marta Colburn, Director of Global Education, Mercy Corps
503.233.2153 * colburn@pacifier.com

Books on the Gulf War

The Gulf War: History, Documents, Opinions

Edited by Micah Sifry and Christopher Cerf. Random House, 1991.

Persian Gulf War Almanac

by Harry G. Summers, Jr. Facts on File, 1995.

The Generals' War: The Inside Story of the Conflict in the Gulf

by Michael Gordon and General Bernard Trainor. Little Brown, 1995.

Crusade: The Untold Story of the Persian Gulf War

By Rick Atkinson. Houghton Mifflin, 1993.

Print and Videos for Various Ages on Iraq

Gilgamesh the King, The Last Quest of Gilgamesh and The Revenge of Ishtar

Retold and Illustrated by Ludmila Zeman. Plattsburgh, New York: Tundra Books, 1992. **Grades K – 5.**

Based on a story found on clay tablets over 5,000 years old, Gilgamesh is half-god and half-man, who in his loneliness and isolation, becomes a cruel tyrant over the citizens of Uruk. But the Sun God sends a messenger to earth who teaches Gilgamesh what true friendship means, and what it is to be human. The vivid illustrations are based on artifacts found in ancient Mesopotamia, and bring the story alive.

Seven Daughters and Seven Sons

By Barbara Cohen, Illustrated by Bahia Lovejoy. William Morrow, 1994. **Grades 6 – 10.** Available from AWAIR - Arab World and Islamic Resources at: www.awaironline.org/.

Based on an 11th century Iraqi oral tale, "Seven Daughters and Seven Sons" is the story of a middle daughter from a poor but honest family of seven girls. With the support of her loving father, she seizes her destiny and courageously goes out into the world, disguised as a man. She makes her fortune and avenges the dignity of her family with those who ridiculed their womanhood. She finds six wonderful husbands for her six sisters. Does she find her own true love?

Mesopotamian Myths

Henrietta McCall. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1996.

High School and Above.

A vast legacy of powerful and creative writing was revealed when nineteenth-century scholars managed to decipher the mysterious wedge-shaped symbols of cuneiform script, inscribed on clay tablets over 5,000 years ago by the ancient Mesopotamians. Strikingly familiar themes emerged in the form of Creation myths, stories of the search for eternal life, tales of a great flood, and other plots that foreshadow the Biblical stories and

Greek myths with which we are more familiar. These and other stories are retold in this text, accompanied by photographs and illustrations of artifacts as well as the work of later artists inspired by the rediscovery of these ancient characters and themes.

The Children are Dying: the Impact of Sanctions on Iraq: Reports by UN Food and Agriculture Organization

Ramsey Clark. World View Forum, Inc., 1996. **High school and Above.**

Published as an appeal to the United States Government and the Security Council of the United Nations, this collection of reports and essays, clearly outlining the effects of the sanctions imposed against Iraq, stress the need to end the use of sanctions as a weapon of war.

Greetings from Iraq

Produced and Directed by Signe Taylor. 30 min. VHS. **High School and Above.**

This video gives Iraqi children and their families the opportunity to tell their stories to Western audiences for the first time. Through their compelling voices this video documents the largely unknown tragedies and difficulties caused by the Persian Gulf War and the international embargo against Iraq.

One Million Postcards

Joan Mandell. American Friends Service Committee, 1999. 12 min. VHS. **High School and Above.** Available from: askaboutiraq@afsc.org.

This documentary film is about two sisters who were deeply concerned about the suffering in Iraq and decided to do something about it. Using art as a medium to express their goals, Kouthar and Marwa al-Rawi created the "One Million Postcard Campaign." The campaign asks people around the world to design a postcard message to President Bill Clinton about the situation in Iraq. This film inspires and teaches young people that they can make a difference by putting their sense of compassion to work through grassroots organizing and political activism.

Iraq: Cradle of Civilization

VHS 60-minute. Available from AWAIR - Arab World and Islamic Resources at: www.awaironline.org/.

The host stands in the Iraqi desert amid crumbling ruins describing a thriving city and a network of lush canals. All that remains of Uruk is a sea of golden sand, the complex city abandoned except for the caretaker and his family. But it was here that men and women built the first civilization.

Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village

By Elizabeth Warnock Fernea. New York: Anchor/Doubleday, 1965, 1968, 1989. **High School and Above.**

While much has been written on Arab women in the past

decade, few works of any substance existed when author Elizabeth Fernea traveled to a southern Iraqi village in the mid-1950s, or when she first published "Guests of the Sheik" in 1965. For the two years that she lived in El Nahra, Fernea followed local custom and associated only with the village women. Overcoming her initial shock at the minimal amenities her new surroundings afforded as well as the obstacles presented by her rudimentary Arabic skills, Fernea came to understand and adapt to village traditions, and to form deep friendships. This captivating ethnography is now considered a classic. It offers a rare view into a traditional lifestyle that is rapidly disappearing throughout much of the Arab world.

Curriculum

Fostering Friendships: A Study Guide to Iraq

Edited by Jack Briggs, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Available for order from www.afsc.org/iraq/guide/Default.shtm. **Grades 4 – 12.**

This excellent classroom resource comes with the video "One Million Postcards," directed by Joan Mandell and produced by AFSC to accompany this unit of study (see description above of the film).

The Gulf War: Beyond Broadcast – Curriculum Guide

Produced by Frontline/WGBH Educational Foundation, 1998.

These classroom lessons were developed to accompany Frontlines' two-part Gulf War series. The website includes background information on Iraq, educators notes and extensive further links and resources. At:

www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/teach/gulfguide/gwactmenu.html

New York Times: Daily Lesson Plans on Iraq

- ◆ ***War Games: Exploring the Potential of United States Military Action Against Iraq***

Deborah Lerman and Javaid Khan

Overview of Lesson Plan: In this lesson, students examine the issues outlined in Vice President Cheney's recent speech about potential United States military action against Iraq. To extend analysis of these issues, each student takes on the role of the President of the United States and writes a speech that he or she would deliver to the United Nations on the topic. **Grades:** 6-8, 9-12

Subjects: Civics, Current Events, Global History, Social Studies www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20020828wednesday.html

- ◆ ***Recurring Nightmares: Exploring How Historical Events Repeat Themselves***

By Michelle Sale and Javaid Khan

Overview of Lesson Plan: In this lesson, students will compare and contrast the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 to the Iraq Crisis of 2002, and then reflect on whether or not these events support the saying "history repeats itself."

Grades: 6-8, 9-12 **Subjects:** American History, Civics, Current Events, Language Arts at: www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20021014monday.html

- ◆ ***Hot Commodities in Turn Oil?: Using Oil as a Starting Point to Learn about Commodities Trading***

By Annissa Hambouz and Javaid Khan

Overview of Lesson Plan: In this lesson, students learn notions of "supply and demand" and "scarcity" by acting as commodities traders on the floor of an imaginary stock exchange based on the game "Pit." **Grades:** 6-8, 9-12 **Subjects:** Economics, Social Studies www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20020410wednesday.html

Core Values Internet Resource Library Mesopotamia

This website consists of a wide-range of internet links on developed by the Oakland Unified School District on Mesopotamia at: http://tlc.ousd.k12.ca.us/library/meso/mesopotamia_general.html

Ancient Mesopotamia: Teacher Resource File

This website consists of links to internet resources on Ancient Mesopotamia developed by Internet School Library Media Center at: <http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/mesopotamia.htm>

Crisis with Iraq—Fall 1998

Developed by Choices for the 21st Century Education Program, Thomas J. Watson Jr. Institute for International Studies, Brown University at:

www.choices.edu/iraqunit.html

Teaching with the News: Crisis with Iraq - Fall 2002

Choices Education Program Watson Institute for International Studies Brown University at: www.choices.edu/iraq/

Women in World History

This website developed by Lyn Reese contains a variety of curriculum related to Iraq including "The Burqa, Chador, Veil and Hijab" and "Ancient Tablets, Ancient Graves: Accessing Women's Lives in Mesopotamia" at: www.womeninworldhistory.com.

Women in the Muslim World: Personalities & Perspectives from the Past

By Lyn Reese. Berkeley: Women in World History, 1998.

This excellent resource contains biographies and a one-of-a-kind way to connect the lives of influential women to major world history topics and issues. For each topic find an insightful background essay followed by lively readings about women whose lives reflect the regional and historic diversity of the Islamic world. The illustrated book contains critical thinking questions, activities, a glossary, and bibliography. One of the featured women is Queen Zubaydah - Baghdad, Iraq (died 831).

The Gulf Crisis: Background And Consequences

Edited by Ibrahim Ibrahim. Center For Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, 1992. **High School and Above.**

A collection of articles from a variety of scholars dealing with issues pertaining to the background and present political and economic realities of the Persian Gulf War of 1991.

Key Documents on Iraq on the Internet

Relief Web Iraq Page

This page is now updated daily. See especially 14 Oct UK Humanitarian Programs in Iraq; 9 Oct MCC Preparing Aid

Package for Iraq 7 Oct UNICEF Humanitarian Action: Iraq Donor Update; 4 Oct British Red Cross Activities in Iraq; 23 Sept IRIN Report on Iraq Refugee NGO in Iran; www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/ByCountry/Iraq?OpenDocument&StartKey=Iraq&Expandview

Norwegian Refugee Council/Global IDP Project

"Profile of Internal Displacement: Iraq" (June 2002) at: www.asyl.net/Magazin/Docs/docs-18/L-29/L9882irq.pdf

Comprehensive 90-page document is especially good on 1998-2002 background, causes and [patterns of displacement; health, nutrition, and shelter; education access; property and legal issues; issues of family, identity and culture, resettlement patterns: humanitarian access and international humanitarian responses. Includes population figures but no maps. In e-version is html clickable internal links with excellent 11-page source list. Essential reading: "Profile Summary" pp. 5-8 and bullet points at beginning of each section.

Save the Children (UK)

"Iraq Sanctions: Humanitarian Implications and Options for the Future" (August 2002) <http://www.weedbonn.org/pdf/Iraq-Sanctions-060802.pdf>

This 59-page report co-authored by a dozen organizations looks at the socio economic cost of sanctions, the oil-for-food program and "smart Sanctions". Also good background on the Iraq-Iran war, oil politics, and Iraqi government obstructions. Includes chronology of events since 1990 and extensive source notes. Downloadable from this site with summary in German.

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)

"Iraq, Sanctions and the War Against Terrorism" CAFOD Briefing Paper (August 2002) www.cafod.org.uk/policy/iraq_sanctions20020809.html

Good on military options and discussion of current political environment. Many current sources.

UNICEF

"Results of the 1999 Iraq Child and Maternal Mortality Surveys" (August 1999) <http://www.unicef.org/reseval/iraqr.html>

These remain the baselines. Click on this page for figures by governorate.

UN Office for Iraq Programs (Oil for Food)

<http://www.un.org/Depts/oip/>

Weekly updates are helpful.

GlobalSecurity.org

www.globalsecurity.org

See site of this non-profit think tank for breaking information on chemical and biological threat.

Iraq Peace Team We

<http://www.iraqpeaceteam.org/index.html>

This site covers the activities of Voices in the Wilderness,

which plans to field observers throughout the crisis, in cooperation with the Baghdad government. Also new on US citizens' response and international no war activities.

University of Texas Iraq Maps Collection

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/iraq.html>

Includes Iraq administrative Divisions, Population density, Economic Activity, Oilfields and Facilities, Land Use, Marshes Drainage Projects and declared Nuclear Facilities. In addition there are large format (:500,000) tactical pilotage charts (U.S. Defense Mapping Agency) for Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk, Arbil, Sulaymaniah, Iraq-Syria border and Iraq-Jordan border.

Education for Peace in Iraq at: <http://epic-usa.org/>

US Department of State Background Notes on Iraq at: www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6804.htm.

Landmine Monitor Report from 2001 on "Northern Iraq (Iraqi Kurdistan) at: www.icbl.org/lm/2001/kurdistan/

Office of Resources for International and Area Studies, UC Berkeley <http://ias.berkeley.edu/orias/index.html>

NI: Global Issues for Learners of English - Iraq. www2.gol.com/users/bobkeim/Iraq/Iraq.html.