**US Presence in Southwest Asia**

**Comprehension Check**

**Directions**: Answer the questions below with information that you learned during the discussion.

1. What is the US’s main economic interest in Southwest Asia?
2. Why did Iraq invade Kuwait in 1990?
3. How did the Persian Gulf conflict end?
4. Why did the US go to war against Iraq in 2003?
5. What happened to Saddam Hussein?
6. Why is there still conflict in Iraq today?
7. Who are the Taliban?
8. Why did the US invade Afghanistan in 2001?
9. How did the Afghanistan invasion end?

**KEY**

1. What is the US’s main economic interest in Southwest Asia?

Oil

1. Why did Iraq invade Kuwait in 1990?

To gain access to the Persian Gulf & take control of Kuwait’s oil fields

1. How did the Persian Gulf conflict end?

Iraq lost but burned Kuwait’s oil fields on the way out. UN forced Iraq to destroy all WMD and to stop making new ones.

1. Why did the US go to war against Iraq in 2003?

Hussein led US to believe that he had WMD & providing aid to al-Qaeda.

1. What happened to Saddam Hussein?

Hussein went into hiding, was found in 2003, and tried & executed in 2006.

1. Why is there still conflict in Iraq today?

Sunni & Shia Muslims are fighting for power & control of the country.

1. Who are the Taliban?

An Anti-American religious group who provided aid to al-Qaeda

1. Why did the US invade Afghanistan in 2001?

To disable the Taliban and locate bin Laden

1. How did the Afghanistan invasion end?

Taliban was defeated & US helped set up a democratic government in Afghanistan. Bin Laden was on the run for 10 years until he was captured & killed in 2011.