

Hello, fellow teacher!

Below is your reading passage; I hope it serves you well.

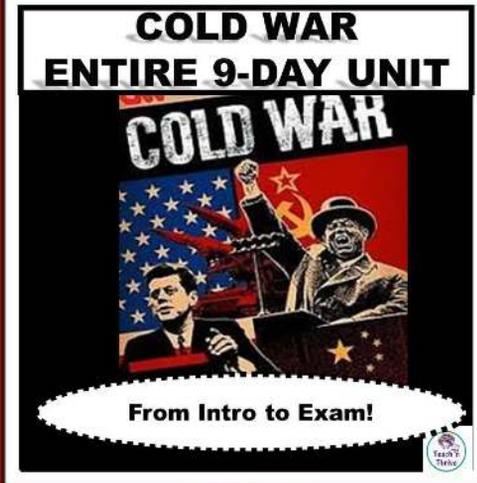
Print it out and it's ready to use. Or, if you want to differentiate for struggling students, use the highlight feature on the PDF to annotate what you want the kiddos to focus on.

Click [here](#) to get a digital copy.

Don't forget to check back to the site regularly and see what has been added!

Warmest Wishes,
Joan

If you're interested in a done-for-you whole unit check out my Cold War Unit [here](#)



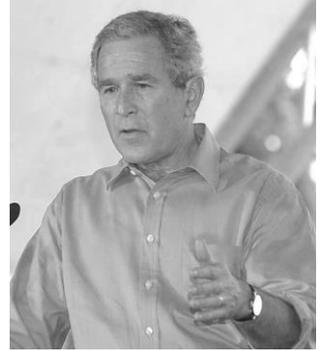
If you haven't discovered my word puzzles on the site, there are dozens of them ready for download. See your choices [here](#).

Presidency of George W. Bush Administration

The 21st Century started with a disputed election. It would just be the beginning.

Bush v. Gore

The 2000 election was very close. Al Gore won the popular vote, but the electoral vote would be a matter of dispute. The electoral vote, the determining factor, would turn on the results in Florida, which had various voting problems. The Supreme Court ultimately decided in *Bush v. Gore* that the official vote count in Florida for George W. Bush was final. He (nicknamed "Dubya" or "Bush43") became president.



9/11

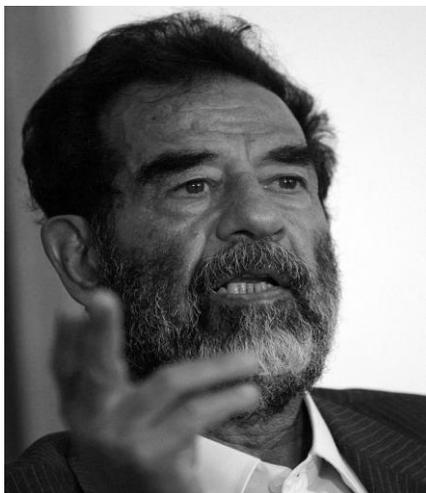
Al-Qaeda ("the base" or "the foundation") is a transnational extremist Islamic terrorist organization with roots in the struggle with the Soviets in Afghanistan in the 1980s. Osama Bin Laden was one of its founders. Al-Qaeda also opposed various American policies, including its bases in Saudi Arabia (where a holy site of Islam resides). This led the organization to declare war on the United States.

As part of this effort, it took part in a set of terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon (one more attack failed) on September 11, 2001. This resulted in the destruction of the two towers at the World Trade Center and the death of about three thousand Americans. The shock of an attack on our soil felt to many like things would never be the same. A feeling of American security in a significant way ended that day.

The Taliban, in control of Afghanistan, allowed Osama Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda members to stay there. In response, the United States and an international force invaded Afghanistan. Bin Laden was killed years later [2011] by American forces, but the fighting in the country continues until the present day. Also, the response to stop terrorism led to controversy including a prison camp in Guantanamo Bay (Cuba), "enhanced interrogation" that many deemed torture (such as waterboarding) and anti-Muslim feelings generally. The Department of Homeland Security was also formed to have a more organized and comprehensive means to defend U.S. security.



Iraq War



Saddam Hussein

The rise of Islamic terrorism in the Middle East and 9/11 particularly led to the idea that Saddam Hussein was an imminent (immediate) threat. Additionally, there appeared to be evidence Hussein, a nasty dictator who Americans fought a war with already, had particularly dangerous weapon capacity ("weapons of mass destruction"). In 2003, the United States went to war with Iraq though there was strong opposition, in part because the evidence of WMDs was disputed. The hope was for a quick overturn of Hussein and a peaceful transition to a more democratic regime. The result was disorder and long-lasting conflict. As with Afghanistan, war in some form continues until the present day.

Bush Domestic Policy

Early in his presidency, Bush helped pass two major tax cuts and a prescription drug bill (Medicare Part D). These measures were well-received. However, he was criticized for not doing a good job handling a major hurricane (Katrina) in New Orleans. He supported a major change in Social Security, which did not pass. Bush also supported conservative values, including opposition to same sex marriage. This was part of his message when he won re-election in 2004. After winning re-election, he nominated John Roberts as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and replaced Justice Sandra Day O'Connor with Samuel Alito.

Financial Crisis

A mixture of economic problems in part involving housing markets and risky bank moves helped to lead to a global financial crisis. A basic event here was the largest bankruptcy filing in United States history, Lehman Brothers in 2008. This led to the biggest recession (economic decline) since the Great Depression.

In response, the United States government "bailed out" financial institutions (Troubled Asset Relief Program) and passed a stimulus bill (2009) to provide temporary relief programs for those most affected by the recession and invest in infrastructure, education, health, and renewable energy. The opposition to this governmental expansion effort included the growth of a conservative "Tea Party" movement.

The problems with Iraq and the economy helped the Democrats to regain control of both houses of Congress and the presidency (Barack Obama over John McCain in 2008).

Terms of Use

Thank you for your purchase!

By purchasing/downloading this resource, you are agreeing that the contents are licensed to you only for classroom/personal use as a single user. I retain the copyright and reserve all rights to this product.

YOU MAY:

Use items (free and purchased) for your own classroom students, or your own personal use.

Reference this product in blog posts, at seminars, professional development workshops, or other such venues PROVIDED there is a link back to my TPT store is included in your post/presentation.

YOU MAY NOT:

Claim this work as your own, alter the files in any way, or remove/attempt to remove the copyright/watermarks.

Sell the files or combine them into another unit for sale/free or post this document for sale/free elsewhere on the internet (this includes Google Doc links on blogs).

Make copies of purchased items to share with others is strictly forbidden and is a violation of the Terms of Use as well as copyright law.