**Iraq LESSON 3: Costs of the Iraq War Middle SCHOOL**

Location: Iraq, US Time Period: Current Event Grades: 6-8

Essential Question: How does a nation assess the cost of war?

Objectives:

Students will identify the different types of costs a nation has during a war

Students will measure the different costs of the US involvement in the war in Iraq

Students will explore the different types of war costs—that which can be measured and that which is harder to count

**Curriculum Standards**:

Grade 6: World Geography

 Concepts and Skills:

History and Geography: Reading and Interpreting Maps

 Economics

 Learning Standards: Western Asia (the Middle East)

**Iraq Lesson 3: Middle School Teacher Sheet**

**Overview**

The US led coalition fought in Iraq from March 2003 until December 2011. There are many ways to evaluate what this war cost both countries. In this activity, students will first look at those elements that can be measured specifically. They will then consider the less tangible but equally import costs of this conflict.

**Procedure**

1. Review with students the basic timeline of the US led coalition in Iraq. You may want to look at Maps in the News, Iraq, http://maps.bpl.org/iraq for more background information,
2. Have a discussion about what it means to “cost something” There is the baseline—Dollars and cents. But what about other kinds of costs? Time? Opportunity? Hope? And those things you simply cannot put a price tag on?
3. Provide them with the information on the BBC website, the Iraq War in figures and have them complete Part I of the Student Sheet. They may work individually, in small groups or as a class.
4. Discuss their results.
5. Now look at the information presented in Iraq, Key Facts and Figures, and have them complete Part II of the Student Sheet. Discuss their results.
6. You may use the questions on Part III of the Student Sheet as part of a debate, for a writing assignment, or as the basis for a class discussion. Be sure the students use the data from the information they have seen to support their positions.

**Time Allocation**: One class period

**Materials**

Timeline of War in Iraq,

[**http://www.cfr.org/iraq/timeline-iraq-war/p18876**](http://www.cfr.org/iraq/timeline-iraq-war/p18876)

Iraq war in figures bbc site <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-11107739>

Iraq, key facts and figures, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-11095920>

Assessment Criteria

Did students identify the different types of costs a nation has during a war?

Did students measure the different costs of the US involvement in the war in Iraq?

Did students explore the different types of war costs—that which can be measured and that which is harder to count?

Enrichment

Explore the costs to the US in the form of a debate around all or any of the following

Consider the money the US spent on the war. Whose decision was this? How else might this money have been spent? Were the Iraqi people consulted about the decision to invade their country? Knowing everything we know now, do you think the US made the correct decision to invade Iraq? Do you think the Iraqi people think it would agree with you?

**Iraq Lesson 3: Middle School Student Sheet**

What does it cost to fight a war? How does one even begin to measure such an undertaking? In this activity, you will first look at some basic facts and figures of the US involvement in Iraq from 2003 to 2011.

Part I: The Iraq War in Figures

1. There are a lot of facts and numbers on this page. What information do they give?

2. What were the total number of US deaths?

3. What were the total number of Iraqi deaths (civilian and military)? Why has it been so hard to get an accurate number?

4. What was the financial cost of the war for the US?

5. How many Iraqis have been displaced from their homes?

6. What do you learn from all of these numbers together? What information about the costs of war is still missing?

Part II: Iraq, Key Facts and Figures

Read through the information on this website.

1. What information is on this website? How is similar to the information from the Iraq War in Figures? How is it different?
2. Are the people of Iraq better or worse off than they were in 2003?
3. What criteria are you using to judge their situation?
4. What information is not shown in these statistics that might help you answer this question?
5. If you were interviewing an Iraqi, what questions would you want to ask him or her?