

## No WMD in Iraq (Thu 13 Jan)

**CHAT:** Talk in pairs or groups about the search for WMD in Iraq / weapons inspectors / reasons for war in Iraq / the international threat of Iraqi WMD / George W. Bush's presidency / lost lives / intelligence and misinformation ...

**2-MINUTE DEBATES:** Face each other in pairs and engage in the following (for-fun) 2-minute debates:

- The world new there were no weapons 2 years ago. vs. The US government had to look for them.
- No WMD means the war was a mistake. vs. Saddam was still a threat to world peace.
- George W. Bush lied to the world. vs. He was lied to by intelligence agencies.
- The war was still just. Millions of Iraqis are free. vs Thousands of Iraqis and coalition soldiers are dead.
- We should have listened to UN weapons inspectors who said there was no WMD. vs US weapons teams are better than UN weapons teams.
- George W. Bush should resign. vs. He is still needed for the war on terror.
- Donald Rumsfeld should resign. vs. He is still needed for the war on terror.
- George W. Bush should apologise to the world. vs But he's only doing his job.
- The war in Iraq has increased the war on terror. vs. September 11 did that.

### PRE-READING IDEAS

**WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'surprise' and 'mass'.

**HEADLINE:** Look at the article headline make guesses as to the contents of the report.

**TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the headline and predict whether the following statements are true or false:

- (a) 'WMD' means World Military Defence'. T / F
- (b) Stockpiles of WMD have been found. T / F
- (c) US expert weapons inspection teams have ended their search for WMD. T / F
- (d) United States intelligence agencies did an excellent job in providing accurate information on WMD to the Bush administration. T / F
- (e) Iraq did not pose a serious threat to global security. T / F
- (f) There being no WMD questions the validity of George W. Bush's presidency. T / F
- (g) Evidence exists that weapons were moved to another country. T / F
- (h) President Bush needs to explain to the American people why he was so wrong, for so long, about the reasons for war. T / F

**DEFINITIONS** Match the following words with the most likely definitions:

a.	weapons (n)	(a) a cloth for cleaning dirty surfaces (b) an instrument of attack or defense in combat, as a gun, missile, or sword
b.	mass (adj)	(a) done or carried out on a large scale (b) gather many things in one place
c.	destruction (n)	(a) the condition of having been destroyed (b) your fate or destiny
d.	biological (adj)	(a) a profile on a person or country (b) relating to or living organisms
e.	stockpiles (n)	(a) to have more than 51% of the shares in a company (b) a very large supply of something stored for future use,
f.	skeptical (adj)	(a) having doubt or many questions about the truth of something (b) totally believing in the truth of something
g.	validity (n)	(a) not being able to walk because of leg injuries (b) having legal force or a solid reason for doing something
h.	concede (v)	(a) to accept you are wrong, or that you lost (b) when prisoners take over control of a prison from security guards
i.	justification (n)	(a) the good reasons and legality for doing something (b) making sure a criminal receives a punishment
j.	invasion (n)	(a) when an army tries to defend itself from attack (b) when an army from one country tries to take over another country

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

(a)	weapons	government
(b)	mass	stores
(c)	destruction	arms
(d)	stockpiles	proof
(e)	doubts	give in
(f)	skeptical	enormous
(g)	administration	as clear as day
(h)	evidence	devastation
(i)	concede	uncertainties
(j)	obvious	unbelieving

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases based on the article :

(a)	surprise	attack from a leading Democrat
(b)	weapons of	for war
(c)	inspection teams have ended	such a scale
(d)	nuclear	by fact
(e)	This casts	surprise
(f)	existed on	been uncovered
(g)	Mr. Bush is under	program
(h)	nor has any evidence	their search
(i)	not supported	mass destruction
(j)	reasons	huge doubts on the US intelligence

**WHILE READING ACTIVITIES**

**GAP-FILL:** Put the missing words under each paragraph into the gaps.

<p><b>bNE:</b> Surprise, surprise. There are no _____ of mass destruction (WMD) in Iraq. US expert weapons inspection teams have ended their search for biological, chemical and nuclear weapons in Iraq, having _____ what most of the world has known for years - Iraq had no stockpiles of weapons and its nuclear program was non-existent. This casts huge _____ on the US intelligence, which was used to assure a skeptical world that WMD existed on such a scale it _____ a threat to world security. It also questions the _____ of George W. Bush's presidency and the reason he went to war, and why so many thousands of innocent are dead. His administration is still insisting weapons might have been moved out of Iraq before the war or are still hidden somewhere in the Iraqi desert. Mr. Bush is under attack from a leading Democrat, Nancy Pelosi, who says, "After a search that has _____ nearly two years and millions of dollars, and a war that has cost thousands of lives, no weapons of mass destruction have been found -- nor has any _____ been uncovered that such weapons were moved to another country. ... President Bush has refused to concede what has been obvious for months -- the primary _____ for the invasion of Iraq was not supported by fact. ... Now that the search is finished, President Bush needs to explain to the American people why he was so wrong, for so long, about the reasons for war."</p>	<p><i>consumed</i>  <i>weapons</i>  <i>validity</i>  <i>evidence</i>  <i>discovered</i>  <i>justification</i>  <i>posed</i>  <i>doubts</i></p>
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## **DISCUSSION:**

- (a) What do you think of the news that there are no WMD?
- (b) How should George W. Bush explain this?
- (c) What has your position been on WMD over the past two years (since Colin Powell explained in detail about the existence of WMD in the UN)?
- (d) Should George W. Bush apologise or resign?
- (e) Should someone be made accountable for the huge lies and mistakes which have cost thousands of lives and destroyed a nation?
- (f) Was war against Iraq still OK because Saddam Hussein was a tyrant?
- (g) Is it possible WMD were buried in the desert or quickly taken to another country as the Bush administration is saying?
- (h) Does President Bush need to explain to the American people why he was so wrong, for so long, about the reasons for war?
- (i) Should George W. Bush be fired?
- (j) Is Bush a good leader?
- (k) How has Bush changed your country / the world?
- (l) How will history judge George W. Bush?
- (m) Has President George W. Bush done anything that is praiseworthy in your eyes?
- (n) Teacher's additional questions

## **HOMEWORK**

**VOCAB EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or the Google search field to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

### **INTERNET / WEB LINKS:**

Who said what about WMD?:

<http://www.counterpunch.org/wmd05292003.html>

100 mistakes of the President, by the Center for American Progress

<http://www.americanprogress.org/site/pp.asp?c=biJRJ8OVF&b=6432>

A web portal on almost every thing, report and position on Iraq:

<http://www.iraqcrisis.co.uk/resources.php?cat=Weapons+Inspectors>

The BBC report:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4169107.stm>

BBC Talking Point - views on this topic from around the world:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking\\_point/4169287.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/4169287.stm)

**WMD POSTER:** Create a poster outlining the danger of WMD.

**LETTER TO GEORGE W.:** Write a letter to US president George W. Bush advising him how to explain this to the world.

## **FULL TEXT**

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