

Iraq: War and Peace Activities

Activity 1: The war – what we know and what we can find out

Aims

- To address issues related to the situation that are of real concern to pupils
- To enable pupils to find out more about the situation
- To help the pupils feel that they can talk about the issues

What to do

Ask your class if they have any questions about the war and aftermath. Suggest that the pupils work in groups and note down all their concerns, then vote within the group for the three questions they are most concerned about. The top three questions from each group should be written on three separate pieces of paper.

Collect the three questions from each group and display them in a prominent place. Then ask for help in dividing them into different kinds of questions:

(a) those that we can't know the answer to at the moment, but can come back to at another agreed time

(b) those that we can find out the answer to now.

Questions submitted might include the following:

How many people have been killed? (b)

What will happen to the people who have been hurt? (a)

What is Britain doing to help Iraq now? (b)

Why was there fighting in the first place? (b)

Are we in any danger in the UK? (b)

What will happen in the end? (a)

Look at the distribution of questions under the two headings. Explain that we can't do much about (a) questions at the moment because the answers won't be known for some time. However, we can look at the (b) questions and find out about them. This can be done using various resources, individually or in groups. Display the findings and agree to review the (a) questions later on.