

## \$300m search for WMD finds nothing

Level 1 | Elementary

200,000 troops    10,000 killed    1 (old) bottle of botulinum

### 1 Vocabulary

Match the words or phrases with the definitions:

1. weapons of mass destruction
  2. cosmetic surgery
  3. wrinkles
  4. poison
  5. banned
  6. evidence
  7. justify
  8. UN resolution
- 
- a. not allowed; forbidden
  - b. a decision made by the United Nations
  - c. something that will kill you or make you very ill if you eat or drink it
  - d. something that makes you believe that something has happened
  - e. weapons that can kill thousands of people
  - f. to give a good reason for doing something
  - g. lines that appear on your face as you get older
  - h. medical operations to make people look younger or more beautiful

### 2 Find the information

1. What does ISG mean?
2. What did the ISG search find?
3. Where did they find the bottle?
4. How long will a complete search take?
5. How much will it cost?

## \$300m search for WMD finds nothing

Level 1 | Elementary

### \$300m search for WMD finds nothing

The Iraq Survey Group (ISG) has been looking for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq for the last three months. Last week the leader of the ISG, David Kay, presented a progress report to the US Congress. In his report he said that the ISG had not found any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. In fact, he said, the only thing they had found was a small glass bottle containing a poison that is often used in cosmetic surgery. Mr Kay also said that Saddam Hussein had not tried to restart his nuclear weapons programme since 1998 and had stopped his chemical weapons programme more than 10 years ago. He said that a complete search would take another six to nine months.

The glass bottle contained a poison called botulinum. They found the bottle in the home of an Iraqi scientist, among some other biological samples. It was known that the Iraqi regime experimented with botulinum as a weapon. However, the

botulinum found was not very strong. It was probably used to vaccinate farm animals. In the form of Botox, it could also be used in cosmetic surgery to remove wrinkles.

"We don't know if this scientist wanted to remove Saddam's wrinkles or kill people," said Joseph Cirincione, a weapons expert. Later the ISG learned that the bottle had been in the Iraqi scientist's refrigerator at home for 10 years. The report is very different from the UK government's report on Iraq's banned weapons programme which was published last September. The UK report said that Iraq had chemical and biological weapons "ready to use". The ISG found no evidence of that.

But the British Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, said that the report justified the war. He said that it contained "evidence" that Saddam was breaking UN resolutions. The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said before the report was published that the ISG had only been looking for weapons for three months and they would need more time.

In the USA the report disappointed both Democrats

and Republicans. However, the US Congress could not agree on whether to spend another \$600m to continue the ISG's work for another six to nine months.

The leading Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, Jay Rockefeller, said: "We are now asking for another six to nine months. I think we need to think seriously about our policies in Iraq. We also need to think seriously about why we decided to go to war".

No one is sure whether Iraq's weapons of mass destruction exist or not.

Julian Borger, Ewen MacAskill and Richard Norton-Taylor

*The Guardian Weekly*

## \$300m search for WMD finds nothing

Level 1 | Elementary

### 3 Comprehension check

Are these statements true or false?

1. After three months the ISG found absolutely nothing.
2. The ISG said Saddam Hussein stopped his chemical weapons programme in 1998.
3. Botulinum can be used to treat farm animals.
4. The ISG report said that Iraq had biological weapons "ready to use".
5. Tony Blair believes the ISG needs more time.
6. The US Congress agreed to spend another \$600m to continue the ISG's work.

### 4 Vocabulary - prepositions

Fill the gaps using prepositions

1. The ISG has been looking \_\_\_\_\_ weapons of mass destruction.
2. The ISG presented a report \_\_\_\_\_ the US Congress.
3. A complete search will take six \_\_\_\_\_ nine months.
4. The Iraqi regime experimented \_\_\_\_\_ botulinum.
5. The report is different \_\_\_\_\_ the UK government's report.
6. The US Congress could not agree \_\_\_\_\_ whether to spend more money.
7. They are now asking \_\_\_\_\_ another six to nine months.
8. They need to think seriously \_\_\_\_\_ their policies.

### 5 Vocabulary - collocations

Find words in the text that go together with these words:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ weapons
2. \_\_\_\_\_ weapons
3. \_\_\_\_\_ weapons
4. \_\_\_\_\_ surgery
5. \_\_\_\_\_ report
6. \_\_\_\_\_ animals

## \$300m search for WMD finds nothing

Level 1 | **Elementary**

### 6 Vocabulary - puzzle

Rearrange these letters to form words from the text:

1. pedidastipon
2. torifgerrear
3. pleams
4. denvice
5. illnecigeen
6. metmetioc

## \$300m search for WMD finds nothing

Level 1 | Elementary

### Key

#### 1 Vocabulary

1. e
2. h
3. g
4. c
5. a
6. d
7. f
8. b

#### 2 Find the Information

1. Iraq Survey Group
2. A small glass bottle containing botulinum
3. In an Iraqi scientist's refrigerator
4. Six to nine months
5. \$600m

#### 3 Comprehension Check

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. F

#### 4 Vocabulary - Prepositions

1. for
2. to
3. to
4. with
5. from
6. on
7. for
8. about

#### 5 Vocabulary – Collocations

- 1-3. biological; chemical; nuclear
4. cosmetic
5. progress
6. farm

#### 6 Vocabulary – Puzzle

1. disappointed
2. refrigerator
3. sample
4. evidence
5. intelligence
6. committee