



NMMC at Home

THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS IN THE
PERSIAN GULF:
1990-1991



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Education Resource Guide

The materials and lesson plans included in this resource guide will help supplement the digital content the Education Department has created on the National Museum of the Marine Corps website.

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Education Resource Guide

Age Range:

Our Marine Corps in the Persian Gulf activities are ideally suited for grades 6-12. We have provided topic worksheets at the end of this document for our younger learners.

Student Objectives:

- I can explore the ways in which Marines serving in the Persian Gulf in the early 1990s add to the storied history of the United States Marine Corps.
- I can analyze how the events of August 1990 through February 1991 were integral to shaping the modern Marine Corps today.
- I can summarize the role of the United States Marine Corps in the Persian Gulf in writing.

Procedure:

1. Fill in the first two columns of the KWLW Comprehension Sheet.
2. While watching the video, [The United States Marine Corps in the Persian Gulf: 1990-1991](#), fill in the blank timeline on page 5.
3. After you have finished watching the video, fill in the last remaining columns of the KWLW Comprehension Sheet. Think about how their timeline varies or is similar to other events in Marine Corps history. Talk about it with your friends, family, or classmates.
4. For our younger viewers, our topic worksheet on the final two pages will provide a general understanding of Marines in the Persian Gulf. Read the profiles of prominent Marines that served there and reflect on their service and sacrifice.

Materials:

- *The United States Marine Corps in the Persian Gulf, 1990-1991* [[LINK](#)]
- *KWLW Comprehension Sheet and Timeline*
- *The United States Marine Corps in the Persian Gulf Topic Sheet and Profiles*



KWLW Comprehension Chart

Topic: The United States Marine Corps in the Persian Gulf: 1990-1991

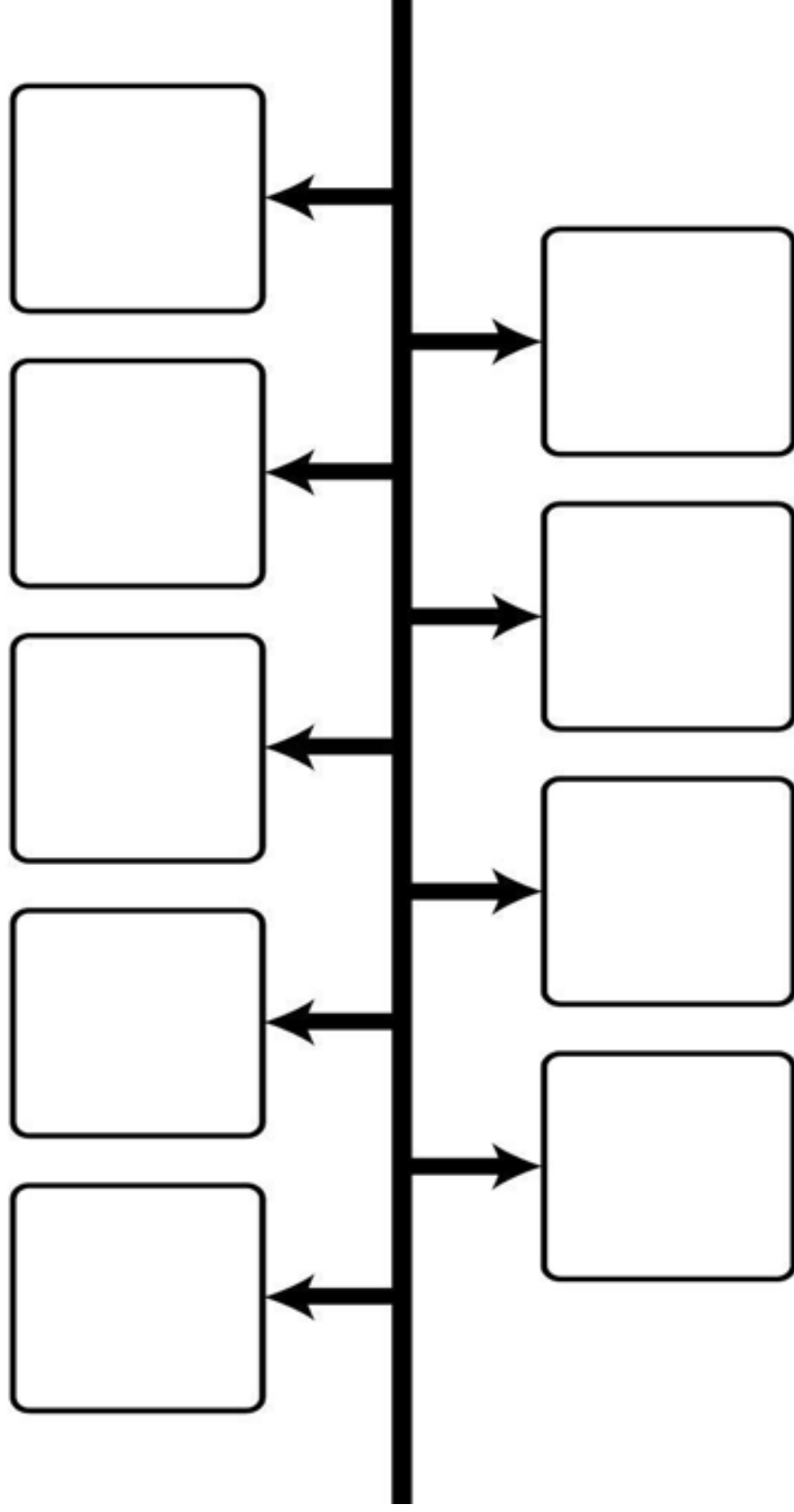
Directions: Fill out the first two columns (K and W) below before watching the United States Marine Corps in the Persian Gulf: 1990-1991 video. Once you have finished watching the video, fill out the last two columns (L and W) with the new information you learned and any questions you still have.

K What I Know	W What I Want to Know/Learn	L What I Learned	W What Questions I Still Have

USMC in the Persian Gulf Timeline

Topic: The United States Marine Corps in the Persian Gulf: 1990-1991

Directions: While watching the **video** on the United States Marine Corps in the Persian Gulf, fill in the timeline below with significant events.





The United States Marine Corps in the PERSIAN GULF: 1990-1991

Saddam Hussein invaded neighboring Kuwait in August 1990. President Bush authorized military force to first protect Saudi Arabia (Desert Shield) and then liberate Kuwait (Desert Storm). The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force fought over 100 miles of occupied territory, crushed seven Iraqi Divisions, destroyed 1,600 tanks and armored vehicles, and took over 22,000 prisoners. The Gulf War ushered in new technological advances for the Marine Corps that still exist today and was the first war where American women served in a combat role.

Marines in the Persian Gulf Map Activity



Directions: Use the location terms, Marine divisions, and symbols below to fill out the map of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Location (Write in Rectangle)

- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Persian Gulf
- Saudi Arabia

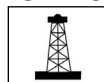
Military (Draw in Box)

- 1st Marine Division
- 2d Marine Division



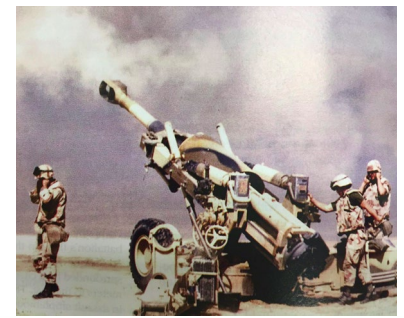
Symbols (Draw in Box)

- Oil Field
- Kuwait City Capital



“When you say that the division is moving forward, you are really saying that thousands of Marines are forging ahead as individuals and in small units. They are the real heroes of any battle.”

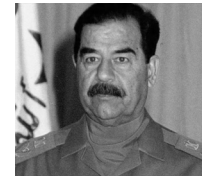
LtGen Walter E. Boomer
Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force



Fire support for Desert Storm ground campaign, 1991

TIMELINE

1990



2 August

Saddam Hussein invades oil-rich Kuwait; Operation Desert Shield begins. Marines of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade begin arriving in late August.

1991

17 January
Operation Desert Storm officially begins as the 15 January deadline passes.

29 November

United Nations gives Iraq a 15 January 1991 deadline to withdraw from Kuwait.



29 January

The battle of al-Khafji, the first major ground engagement of the war, begins.

24 February

U.S. and allies begin final ground offensive against Iraqi forces in the Desert Storm conflict.



25 February

Marines from Bravo Company 4th Tank Battalion decimate attacking Iraqi forces in largest and fastest tank engagement in USMC history.



27 February

Marines from the 1st and 2d Division take Kuwait International Airfield alongside Coalition forces.

28 February

President George H.W. Bush ends Gulf War with cease-fire.



PROFILES

The United States Marine Corps in the Persian Gulf: 1990-1991



Michael M. Kurth

- Michael M. Kurth was born in Waukegan, Illinois, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin before joining the Marine Corps.
- Kurth led 24 Cobra gunships on a combat mission during Operation Desert Storm for ten hours through several miles of thick smoke generated by burning Kuwaiti oil.
- Lieutenant Colonel Kurth's actions accounted for at least 70 Iraqi destroyed vehicles.
- In recognition of his heroism, Lieutenant Colonel Kurth received the Navy Cross in 1991.
- "Always challenge yourself, be truthful and remember that people are relying on you to do the right thing."



Eddie S. Ray

- Eddie Ray was born in Los Angeles in 1954 and earned his bachelor's degree while serving as an enlisted artilleryman, and joined the reserves as an officer.
- Served as the Commanding Officer, Company B, First Light Armored Infantry Battalion during Operation Desert Storm.
- On February 25, 1991, Captain Ray and his outnumbered company charged an oncoming Iraqi brigade, capturing more than 250 enemy soldiers and destroying over fifty enemy vehicles.
- Captain Ray was awarded the Navy Cross for his outstanding leadership and courage in the face of enemy fire.



Maria C. Villescas

- Maria Connie Villescas joined the Marine Corps at the age of twenty-two.
- After basic training, Villescas was assigned to motor transport where she trained to operate 18-wheeler trucks.
- During the Persian Gulf War in 1990, she was given orders to deploy to Saudi Arabia, a proving ground for military service members in combat situations.
- She and the 1st Force Service Support Group were asked to drive resupply trucks into Kuwait.
- Operation Desert Storm was the greatest participation of women Marines in a combat operation up to that point.