At the end of the 20th century, the world turned its attention to the Middle East, and more specifically Saddam Hussein, the leader of Iraq. Hussein was known around the world as a leader who had fought a bloody war with Iran and killed thousands of Kurds in the northern part of Iraq. In 1990, Hussein invaded Kuwait, reinforcing his brutal reputation.

*Complete each sentence using your own words.*

**1. Saddam Hussein was**

**2. Kuwait**

**3. Iraq accused Kuwait of**

**4. On August 2, 1990**

**5. The United Nations warned**

**6. To get Arab countries to join his side, Hussein**

**7. February 24, 1991…**

**8. After the war Saddam Hussein….**

Kuwait is Iraq’s southern neighbor and is a wealthy, oil rich nation. The people of Kuwait enjoyed a government that provided for many of their needs—from education to free clean drinking water. But, Hussein claimed that Kuwait was mistreating Iraq.

* First, he said that Kuwait was actually a territory belonging to Iraq.
* Next, Hussein felt that Kuwait was stealing oil from an Iraqi oil field.
* Third, he accused Kuwait of producing more oil than OPEC allowed.
* Last, Hussein said that Kuwait had lent Iraq money for the Iran-Iraq War and had the nerve to want Iraq to pay this money back.

For all these reasons, Saddam Hussein thought that Iraq should take action against its southern neighbor.

On August 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, and many people had to flee the country. Those who remained suffered brutal treatment. The United States, an ally of Kuwait, demanded the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces. President George H.W. Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher built a coalition of 698,000 troops from 28 countries to try to remove Hussein’s army from Kuwait.

On November 29, 1990, the United Nations warned Iraq that it needed to be out of Kuwait by January 15th 1991 and return all British and American hostages. On January 13th, Iraq made it clear that they would not give in and Hussein even declared that this would be the “mother of all battles” and Americans would die.

On January 16th 1991, air attacks on Iraq began, and within days, most of the Iraqi air force was destroyed. In an effort to make Arab countries join his side, Hussein launched missiles at Israel, but this didn’t work.

The ground war broke out on Sunday February 24th, 1991 and within 100 hours the “mother of all battles” was over. Many Iraqi troops surrendered quickly. When the end seemed inevitable, the Iraqis set the oil fields of Kuwait on fire. Three days later the capital, Kuwait City was recaptured and a cease fire was signed the next day. Iraq agreed to give up any claim to possessing Kuwait, surrender its prisoners, and return all stolen property. Although the war was over, Saddam Hussein remained in power.

Saddam Hussein was angry with Kuwait because

Timeline of Important Events

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hours later, the war was over.

**February 24, 1991**

**January 16, 1991**

**August 2, 1990**

**November 29, 1990**