

## Student Worksheet

### DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

### STORY

**President Bush Tours Middle East to Build Support**, 01/16/08

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june08/bush\\_1-16.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june08/bush_1-16.html)

### READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

**1. What was the purpose of President Bush's most recent overseas trip? Where did he travel?**

**2. What did Mr. Bush say during his speech in Israel? What is his opinion of a peace agreement there between Israelis and Palestinians?**

**3. Why does the United States have a special relationship with Kuwait? What did the president do there?**

**4. Why is President Bush concerned about Iran's actions in the region?**

**5. How did the United States hope to convince Saudi Arabia to help a potential Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement?**

**6. In addition to asking for help with a peace agreement what did the U.S. government ask of Saudi Arabia?**

**7. What kind of assistance can the United States expect from Egypt, according to the article?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. According to the news article, President Bush travelled to the region to garner support for a comprehensive peace agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians. Why is this important? Do you think this tactic will improve the chances of an agreement before Mr. Bush leaves office? Why or why not?**

**2. What is your opinion of President Bush's argument that Iran is still a danger to the greater Middle East region even though a recent American intelligence report states that the country stopped nuclear weapons production in 2003? How likely is it that the greater region will back tougher sanctions and other pressures on Iran? What would be your diplomatic course of action if you were the president of the United States? Explain your reasoning.**

**3. Research countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt and United Arab Emirates. Look at their political systems, economies, and topics such as free press, women's rights. Does your research affect your opinion about U.S. policy towards these countries? What do you think it should be?**

**Extension Activity**

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra ([extra@newshour.org](mailto:extra@newshour.org)). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.