

## Student Worksheet

### DIRECTIONS

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

### STORY

## **Decades After Cambodian Genocide, Khmer Rouge Leaders Face Trial**

03/27/09

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june09/cambodia\\_03-27.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june09/cambodia_03-27.html)

### READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

**1. What is the happening now with the Khmer Rouge?**

**2. What is Kaing Guek Eav accused of?**

**3. Who did the Khmer Rouge claim to defend?**

**4. Why did the Khmer Rouge forcibly move people to the countryside?**

**5. What were the 'Killing Fields'? What is Choeung Ek?**

**6. What toppled the Khmer Rouge?**

**7. Why has this court case taken so long to get started?**

**8. Why has this been criticized by human rights groups?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. Most of the Khmer Rouge leaders were middle-class graduates of foreign universities yet they hoped to turn Cambodia into a classless society. What do you make of that?**

**2. There are fewer communist governments around the world today than there were in the 1960s and 1970s? What are the factors that make this true?**

**3. The members of the Khmer Rouge are now very old. Do you think that will affect their treatment in the courts? Does it change your opinion of them?**

**4. Other courts have been set up around the world, in Rwanda, in Germany, in Guatemala etc. Do some research on these tribunals and compare and contrast why they did or did not work. What do each of these courts say about justice in that country?**

**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.