

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

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

STORY

Pakistan Asks For More Money to Battle Taliban, 05/12/09

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june09/pakistan_05-12.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who was in Washington, D.C., last week to talk with President Obama?

2. What does the White House want Congress to do about Pakistan?

3. What part of Afghanistan is most at risk?

4. How many refugees have left the Swat Valley?

5. What is one major problem for Pakistan?

6. What did the leaders of Afghanistan and Pakistan promise during their trip?

7. Why are the Taliban dangerous to Pakistan?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Why are the Taliban so dangerous? What can be done to stop them?

2. Are you worried that the Taliban could take control of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal? Why or why not?

3. Why makes it hard for the leaders of Afghanistan and Pakistan control what goes on within their borders?

4. How do you think the United States presence in the area affects the situation in those countries?

5. Should the U.S. invade Pakistan if the Taliban takes over? Why or why not?

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). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.