

Using NewsHour Extra Feature Stories

STORY

Conflict in Georgia Puts Focus on Tensions in the Caucasus 08/12/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/july-dec08/georgia_8-12.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the conflict between Russia and Georgia?

2. What was President Bush's response to Russia's invasion?

3. What recent development did Russia object to relating to Georgia and Western countries?

4. What country did Georgia used to be a part of?

5. What campaign promise did President Saakashvili make?

6. Why has the U.S. been supportive of Georgia?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Do you think it was right for Georgia to attack the separatists? Was it right for Russia to respond the way it did? Why do you think both countries acted the way they did?

2. Why do you think there are people living in Georgia who feel a stronger link with Russia? Name some other examples where people did not necessarily agree with the boundaries of their country or state?

3. Why are conflicts from the Soviet Union era still important today? What other conflicts are related to countries that used to be part of the Soviet Union?

4. Should President Bush have ordered American forces to protect Georgia? 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.