

▶ COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Analyze the Cartoon

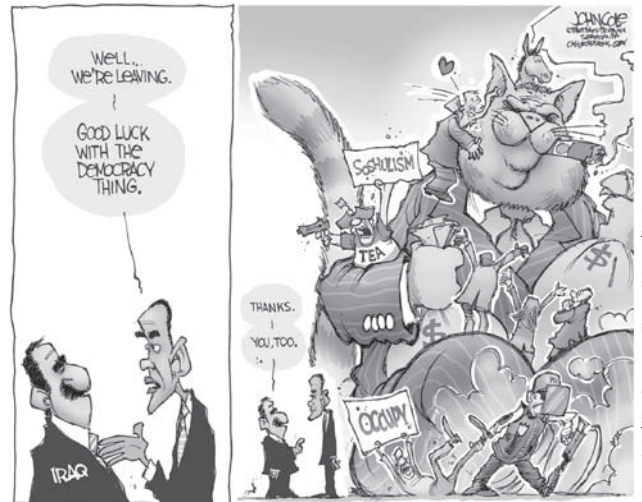
Somebody's got his work cut out for him—but who? In this cartoon, U.S. President Barack Obama and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki part ways. Study the cartoon. Then answer the questions below.

1. Write a caption for the cartoon that describes what is taking place.

2. What is Obama's tone in the first panel?

3. What does the fat cat symbolize in the second panel? What other groups does the cartoonist poke fun at?

4. What might be a good title for this cartoon?



John Cole/The Scranton Times-Tribune/Cagle

5. What point is the cartoonist trying to make about the state of democracy in the United States? Do you agree? Why or why not?

Extra Credit: On a separate piece of paper, draw an editorial cartoon about a topic in *Current Events*. Mail your cartoon to *Current Events*, 44 South Broadway, 18th floor, White Plains, NY 10601-4425. If your cartoon is selected, we'll print it here or on our Web site at www.weeklyreader.com.

Comprehension

Read the issue's cover story, "The War's End." Then fill in the correct answers below.

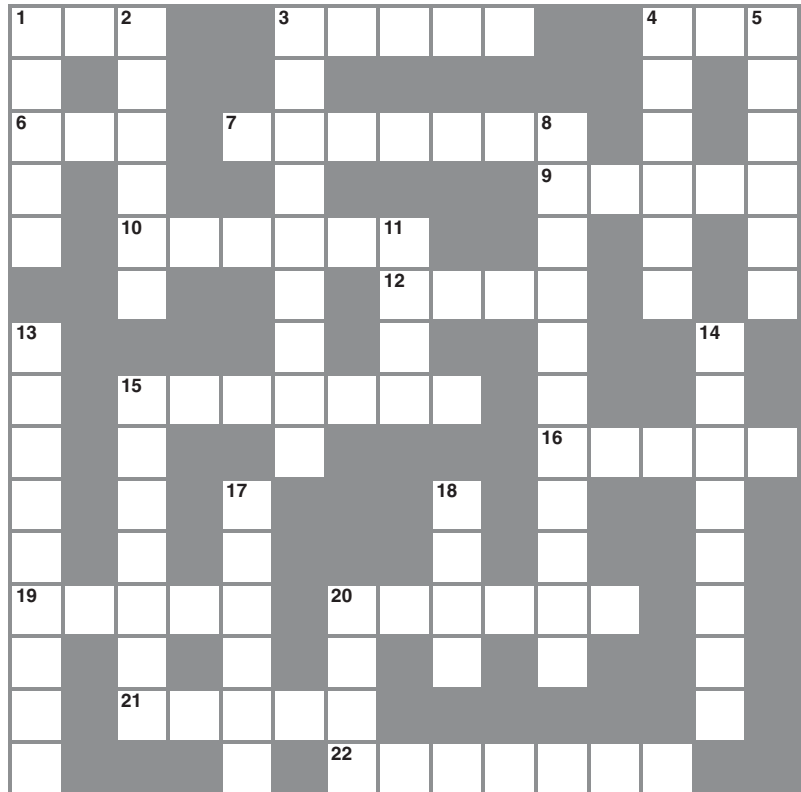
- What is the main idea of the article?
 - U.S. troops are scheduled to return home from Iraq by the end of 2011.
 - The American people stand united in support of the U.S. troops that fought in Iraq.
 - The war in Iraq lasted longer than U.S. President George W. Bush and U.S. allies had expected.
- Which is true about U.S. deaths and Iraqi deaths in the war in Iraq?
 - U.S. forces suffered more deaths than Iraqi forces and civilians did.
 - The number of U.S. deaths is about the same as the number of Iraqi deaths.
 - Iraqis suffered more than 100 times the number of U.S. deaths.
- Which happened first?
 - Some 8 million Iraqis voted for a Transitional National Assembly.
 - Saddam Hussein released poison gas against Kurds in northern Iraq.
 - The city of Baghdad fell to allied forces.
- Which was *not* a reason public opinion turned against the war in 2006?
 - The U.S. had failed to locate any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.
 - Violent attacks led to increased U.S. casualties.
 - Saddam Hussein was hanged for war crimes.
- The increase in U.S. troops in Iraq in 2007 was called the _____.
 - surge
 - swell
 - melt

12.12.11

▶ NEWS CROSSWORD

Across

1. Noah's ride
3. sea that might be home to the world's largest marine reserve
4. snake's scarf?
6. tugboat's task
7. capital of Iraq
9. People in this country are voting for a new government after the ousting of their longtime leader in February.
10. *War Horse* star, Jeremy ____
12. how to share a secret?
15. North African nation
16. wild panda place
19. In early 2007, the U.S. president ordered a ____ of additional troops in Iraq.
20. panda snack
21. ethnic group in northern Iraq
22. former dictator of Iraq, Saddam ____



Down

1. how a nervous insect feels?
2. small oil-rich country invaded by 22 Across
3. An international ____ of troops from 39 countries attacked Iraq in the Persian Gulf War.
4. giant lumberjack (last name)
5. capital of Texas
8. weapons of mass ____
11. a hero's tale
13. rover en route to Mars
14. father of modern physics, Albert ____
15. Hosni ____ ruled Egypt for 30 years.
17. "Once upon a midnight ____, while I pondered, weak and weary."
18. class where you might learn to sew, cook, or balance a budget: ____ economics
20. last name of presidents 41 and 43

SMART STUFF

12.12.11

Directions: Have fun honing multiple-choice test-taking skills. Divide the class into two teams to play Smart Stuff. Score 5 points for each correct answer. Or, use Smart Stuff as a research activity. Students may research categories in groups or individually.

WORLD AND GEOGRAPHY

- Which state is nicknamed the Show Me State?
 - Arkansas
 - Kentucky
 - Missouri
- Which is not part of the French West Indies?
 - the Bahamas
 - Martinique
 - Guadeloupe
- Asia Minor separates which two bodies of water?
 - Black Sea and Caspian Sea
 - Caspian Sea and Mediterranean Sea
 - Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea
- Which European country is bordered by Sweden to the west and Russia to the east?
 - Estonia
 - Finland
 - Poland
- Which is not part of the United Kingdom?
 - Scotland
 - Wales
 - the Netherlands

HISTORY

- Which country withdrew from the Commonwealth of Independent States in 2009?
 - Armenia
 - Georgia
 - Uzbekistan

- Who wrote *The Communist Manifesto*?
 - Friedrich Engels and Robert Owen
 - Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
 - Karl Marx and Robert Owen
- The Congress of Vienna aimed to settle disputes after
 - the Russian Revolution of 1917.
 - the Spanish-American War.
 - the Napoleonic Wars.
- Which explorer established the first all-water route between Europe and Asia?
 - Vasco Da Gama
 - Christopher Columbus
 - Bartholomeu Dias
- Which U.S. president proposed a set of principles known as the Fourteen Points?
 - Woodrow Wilson
 - Harry S. Truman
 - Theodore Roosevelt

CULTURE AND SPORTS

- Which author wrote about sisters Amy, Beth, Jo, and Meg?
 - Charlotte Brontë
 - Louisa May Alcott
 - Jane Porter
- Followers of which religion believe in an Eightfold Path?
 - Buddhism
 - Islam
 - Hinduism

- Where is the Daytona 500 held?
 - Florida
 - South Carolina
 - North Carolina
- Which boxer received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005?
 - Jimmy Ellis
 - Joe Frazier
 - Muhammad Ali
- Which is not a brass instrument?
 - French horn
 - trumpet
 - clarinet

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Which former U.S. Army officer studied typhoid fever and yellow fever?
 - Matthew Perry
 - Walter Reed
 - Winfield Scott
- Cartography is the study of
 - weather.
 - carts.
 - maps.
- An acidic solution might have a pH of
 - 3.
 - 7.
 - 11.
- Which was introduced first?
 - YouTube
 - Facebook
 - Nintendo Wii
- How many faces does a hexahedron have?
 - three
 - five
 - six