

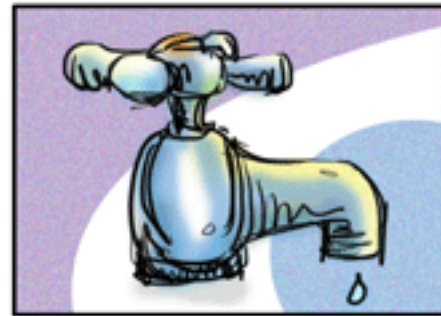
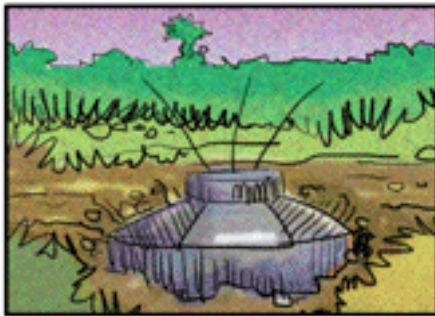


Pre-Reading Activities

A: Brainstorming

Answer these questions in small groups. Choose one student to write your group's answers.

1. What jobs do you think a country needs to do after a war? *e.g. rebuild hospitals, help children with no parents.*
2. How do other countries help when a war is over?
3. What problems could landmines cause after a war?



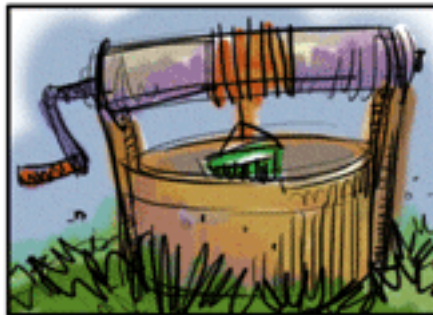
Reading Activities

A: Comprehension

Your teacher will give you an article.

Read the article.

Answer these questions..



1. Are governments doing enough to remove unexploded bombs and landmines?
2. What do mines make more difficult after a war?
3. What kills or maims 20,000 people a year?
4. Which countries have the worst problem?
5. How are landmines different to other weapons?



B: What Do You Think?

Read the quotations below. Use today's article and the quotations below to answer the question:

Why do landmines need to be removed?

"While there are mines in the ground, nobody can do anything. Farmers cannot work their fields and there won't be jobs for the people."

(a person who removes landmines, Shomali Plain north of Kabul, Afghanistan - Reuters, 2003)

Landmines kill or injure between 15,000 and 20,000 people every year. Many more people suffer and die because landmines stop countries from developing: Schools can't be built and students and teachers can't go to class, roads and other infrastructure can't be built or repaired, and people can't use water where there are mines.

(Keith Kelly, Director of Adopt-A-Minefield - adapted from Adopt-A-Minefield UK website report, 2005)

Words:

suffer - feel pain, sadness etc

developing - changing from being a poor agricultural country to a richer, industrial one

infrastructure - buildings, transport, power supplies etc of a country



Articles

Elementary

Poorest countries full of landmines

LONDON (Reuters) Mon Mar 7 (Reuters) - Governments are doing too little to **remove unexploded** bombs and landmines, a report says.

The Landmine Action report says children are killed when they play with brightly colored bomblets from cluster bombs. Countries need **aid** after a war. Mines make it more difficult for countries to use the aid they get.

20,000 people a year are killed or **maimed** by unexploded bombs and landmines--mostly men and children. The problem is worst in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia, Eritrea, Iraq, Laos, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Sudan.

Landmines are made to maim, not kill. This is because many people will have to care for a maimed person which is a bigger problem for an enemy. Although an adult may not be killed a child almost always will be.

Words:

remove - take something away

unexploded - something that could blow up or burst

aid - food, money etc sent to a country to help it

maimed - someone has been hurt very badly so that part of their body is lost (e.g. an arm or leg)

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Pre-Intermediate

Poorest countries full of landmines

LONDON Mon Mar 7 (Reuters) - Governments are doing far too little to remove **unexploded** bombs and landmines, a report says.

The Landmine Action report says children are killed when they play with brightly colored bomblets from cluster bombs. Countries need **aid** after a war. Mines make it more difficult for countries to use the aid they get.

More than 140 countries have **ratified** the 1997 Ottawa Convention and have agreed to stop making and using landmines. They have agreed to destroy their landmines.

However, most are **behind schedule**.

More than 42 other countries won't sign the Convention and hold lots of landmines.

20,000 people a year are killed or **maimed** by unexploded munitions--mostly men and children. The problem is worst in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia, Eritrea, Iraq, Laos, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Sudan.

Landmines are designed to maim, not kill. This is because many people will have to care for a maimed person which is a bigger problem for an enemy. Although an adult may not be killed a child almost always will be.

Glossary:

unexploded - something that could blow up or burst

aid - food, money etc sent to a country to help it

ratified - gave formal approval to an agreement or treaty so that it is official

behind schedule - late in doing things that are planned

maimed - someone has been hurt very badly so that part of their body is lost (e.g. an arm or leg)

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Intermediate - Advanced

Poorest countries riddled with landmines

LONDON Mon Mar 7 (Reuters) - Governments are doing far too little to remove unexploded bombs and landmines, according to a report.

The report was produced by Landmine Action, the British arm of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

"Explosive **remnants** of war are costing civilian lives and livelihoods in 90 countries, many of them the world's poorest," said director Richard Lloyd.

Landmine Action said not only were children being killed and maimed as they **unwittingly** played with the brightly colored unexploded bomblets from cluster bombs, but land and antitank mines were slowing postwar aid delivery. More than 140 countries have **ratified** the Ottawa Convention of 1997 that commits them to immediately stop production and use of landmines, destroy their stockpiles and clear their territories of them within a decade.

Most are way behind schedule. But more than 42 others have refused even to sign and still hold vast reserves of landmines.

"It is a massive problem that is simply not being adequately tackled by most countries," Lloyd told Reuters. "Many governments have to put far more resources than they currently are into dealing with this."

At least 20,000 people a year are killed or maimed by unexploded munitions -- mostly men and children -- and it is worst in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia, Eritrea, Iraq, Laos, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Sudan.

Landmines, by contrast with other munitions, are designed to maim and **incapacitate** rather than kill. While a dead person needs no further action, a maimed but living one involves many others in transport and caring and is a major drain on the resources of the enemy.

But while a landmine may not kill an adult outright, it is almost always fatal for a child, Landmine Action said.

Abandoned munitions are claiming as many if not more lives as mines, Lloyd said.

"I have just come back from Sudan. While I was there a young boy found an unexploded grenade. He took it home, threw it on the fire and killed his whole family," he said.

Glossary:

riddled with - full of

remnants - a piece or amount of something that remains

unwittingly - doing something without realizing or knowing

ratified - gave formal approval to an agreement or treaty so that it is official

incapacitate - to make something unable to do something

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Post-Reading Activities

After you have done the Pre-Reading Activities and Reading Activities, visit the webpages of Adopt-A-Minefield and choose a game or reading resource to do with your class: 50 ideas for schools can be found at <http://www.landmines.org.uk/53>
Living with Landmines stories can be found at <http://www.landmines.org.uk/177>

TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Brainstorming - Notes

If students have prior knowledge of a natural event that has caused devastation to an area (e.g. the recent tsunami etc, you could remind them of this and ask what happened after the event and how other countries helped. Then ask them what additional problems a war may have caused (this leads in to question 3.)

Students can brainstorm in their groups with the 'secretary' writing their answers and then compile a class list or a set of posters with their answers.

Allow students to answer for question 3 but resist giving too much input yourself. However, make sure that students know what a landmine is and how they can be set off. You may need to point out that after a war, many landmines are often still left in the ground and have not been removed.

Here is a definition you can use: 'A landmine is a container filled with explosive material that is placed in the ground. When a person or a vehicle passes over it, the mine explodes.' (The first picture shows a landmine that has been planted in the ground. It would then be covered over.)

A: Brainstorming - Sample Answers

1. rebuild hospitals, help children with no parents (i.e. orphans), repair roads, remove unexploded munitions (weapons), repair water/irrigation supplies, replant crops, repair airport runways, reestablish bureaucratic procedures, etc.

2. supplying expert personnel trained to help solve problems (e.g. engineers, medical teams), financial aid, donations of supplies: clothing, building supplies etc.,

3. What problems could landmines cause after a war? - Answers will vary.

Reading Activities

Note To All Teachers: There are 3 levels of articles to choose from so please choose the level right for your students. Teachers of Advanced students can remove the glossary at the bottom of the Intermediate - Upper Intermediate article to make it more difficult.

A: Comprehension - Notes

A **bomblet** is one of a number of little bombs found in a cluster bomb. A cluster bomb is a large weapon that opens in the air and has bomblets (usually numbering in the hundreds). If they fail to explode when released, they will explode when touched.

A: Comprehension - Answers

1. No, 2. They make it more difficult for countries to use the aid they get. 3. Unexploded bombs or landmines. 4. Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia, Eritrea, Iraq, Laos, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Sudan. 5. They are designed to maim, not kill.

B: What Do You Think? - Notes

Students look at the two quotations and the article and compose an answer based on these. If you wish, you could ask students to divide into three groups and have one group look at the article again while the other two look at one of the two quotations. They can then regroup (each group having one person who looked at the article, another who looked at the landmine clearer's quote and the third at Keith Kelly's quote. They then compose their answer.)

For teachers of Upper Intermediate and Advanced students: you may like to give students the original version of the quotation from Keith Kelly on this page.

B: What Do You Think? - Sample Answers

Landmines continue to cause deaths and serious injury to people (including children) as long as they remain in the ground. Places where mines might have been planted cannot be used: land suitable for crops, homes etc. can't be used, people can't get access to water supplies, roads etc. can't be repaired: all of this means a country can't improve itself economically. Many people are involved in the care of the maimed and family and social relationships are devastated by the death or injury of someone from landmines.

Original Statement by Keith Kelly

Landmines continue to kill or injure between 15,000 and 20,000 people annually. There is also evidence that many more people suffer and die as a result of the indirect but equally lethal impact of landmines as an obstacle to sustainable development.

- Landmines that render potential agricultural land unusable contribute to food shortages and nutrition deficit

- Landmines that restrict access to potable water contribute to diarrheal diseases, the greatest cause of preventable death on the planet

- Landmines that inhibit schools from being built or students and teachers from attending classes limit educational and training opportunities

- Landmines that hinder the construction and maintenance of roads and other infrastructure can have a devastating economic and social effect

- Landmines breed insecurity that tear the social fabric of vulnerable states and foment further instability

Clearly, mine action is a development issue as well as a humanitarian issue, a political issue, a social issue, and ultimately, a human rights issue – for nothing is more basic than the right to life, liberty, and the security of the person.

For these and a host of other reasons, mine action is very much a development issue, and there is no doubt, that in many affected countries, mine action can contribute a great deal to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Keith Kelly, Director of Adopt-A-Minefield

Note One: Useful Websites

Your students may be interested in the following websites:

<http://www.landmines.org.uk/>

<http://www.icbl.org/>

<http://www.1000dinners.com>

<http://www.landminesurvivors.org/>

<http://www.landmineaction.org>

The following webpage has photos: http://www.landmines.org.uk/Photo_Gallery.asp.

Note Two: More Lessons

Please use any other English-To-Go.com lessons about landmines. You can

access them at the webpage <http://www.english-to-go.com/wl>

The Adopt-A-Minefield website (recommended in the Post-Reading activities) has activities and reading texts suitable for elementary and highschool students and homeschoolers.

Note Three: Some Landmine Facts

1. There are between 45 and 70 million landmines in 90 countries.
2. Landmines can explode for 75 or more years after they are planted.
3. Removing landmines from the ground is very dangerous work.
4. About one third of all the people killed by landmines are children.

(Adapted from <http://www.landmines.org.uk>)