

Armenia and Azerbaijan fight over Nagorno-Karabakh

30th September, 2020



Heavy fighting has broken out between Armenia and Azerbaijan. There is a danger the fighting could lead to a bigger conflict between the two countries. Their trouble is over a region that is on

their border called Nagorno-Karabakh. This is a disputed territory. It is internationally recognized as being part of Azerbaijan but it has a majority Armenian ethnic population. It has governed itself for the past few decades. The recent clashes resulted in the deaths of both civilians and soldiers. Armenia blamed Azerbaijan for started the recent conflict. It said Azerbaijan launched missiles into the region. Azerbaijan's defence ministry said it launched missiles to "ensure the safety of the population" in the region.

There have been tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan since the end of the Nagorno-Karabakh War in 1994. There have been many flashpoints between the two countries. The current clashes have seen the worst fighting in many years. An Al Jazeera journalist who is an expert on Nagorno-Karabakh described the situation as, "a very serious escalation". Neighboring countries are now getting involved. Turkey's President said his country would support Azerbaijan. Russia has given its backing to Armenia, but called for an immediate ceasefire and urgent negotiations. Iran, which shares a border with both Azerbaijan and Armenia, has offered to arrange peace talks.

Sources: bbc.com / cnn.com / aljazeera.com

Writing

There will be a time when no more countries fight each other. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

fighting / danger / conflict / countries / territory / majority / population / region / tensions / flashpoints / journalist / expert / situation / backing / ceasefire / peace

True / False

- a) Light fighting has broken out between Armenia and Azerbaijan. T / F
- b) The fighting is over oil and minerals in the region. T / F
- c) Nagorno-Karabakh has a largely Armenian ethnic population. T / F
- d) Armenia blamed Azerbaijan for firing missiles in the area. T / F
- e) The Nagorno-Karabakh War ended in 2004. T / F
- f) A journalist said the recent fighting was a serious escalation. T / F
- g) Turkey said it would not support Azerbaijan. T / F
- h) Russia said it would back Azerbaijan. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. fighting | a. intensification |
| 2. lead to | b. land |
| 3. territory | c. specialist |
| 4. launched | d. set up |
| 5. tensions | e. result in |
| 6. expert | f. truce |
| 7. escalation | g. battles |
| 8. backing | h. support |
| 9. ceasefire | i. fired |
| 10. arrange | j. strains |

Discussion – Student A

- a) Why do countries go to war?
- b) What wars has your country been in?
- c) What do you think of war?
- d) What do you know about Nagorno-Karabakh?
- e) Should the UN decide where borders are?
- f) How safe is the region in which you live?
- g) Will there be more or fewer wars in the future?
- h) What advice do you have for those in Nagorno-Karabakh?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Heavy fighting has broken | a. for the past few decades |
| 2. a danger the fighting could lead | b. backing to Armenia |
| 3. It has governed itself | c. population in the region |
| 4. launched | d. arrange peace talks |
| 5. ensure the safety of the | e. ceasefire |
| 6. There have been many flashpoints | f. out |
| 7. a very serious | g. to a bigger conflict |
| 8. Russia has given its | h. escalation |
| 9. called for an immediate | i. missiles |
| 10. offered to | j. between the two |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How can we reduce tensions between countries?
- What was the last flashpoint your country was involved in?
- How would you feel if you saw armies fighting?
- Will the actions of Turkey, Russia and Iran help?
- What should the sides talk about in their negotiations?
- Would you be good in peace talks?
- What questions would you like to ask the leaders?

Spelling

- lead to a bigger coftlinc
- a majority Armenian tecihn population
- for the past few eaeddcs
- deaths of both iniclivsa and soldiers
- it launched simslsei
- nseur the safety of the population
- There have been ntisoesn
- many iltpsanfsho between the two countries
- The current slscea
- An Al Jazeera journalist who is an teperx
- a very serious asnciaolet
- etrugn negotiations

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. b	4. i	5. j
6. c	7. a	8. h	9. f	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Religion

You think religion is the most serious cause of war. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their causes aren't as serious. Also, tell the others which is the least serious of these (and why): borders, independence or money.

Role B – Borders

You think borders is the most serious cause of war. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their causes aren't as serious. Also, tell the others which is the least serious of these (and why): religion, independence or money.

Role C – Independence

You think independence is the most serious cause of war. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their causes aren't as serious. Also, tell the others which is the least serious of these (and why): borders, religion or money.

Role D – Money

You think money is the most serious cause of war. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their causes aren't as serious. Also, tell the others which is the least serious of these (and why): borders, independence or religion.

Speaking – Conflict

Rank these with your partner. Put the most serious sources of conflict at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| • Religion | • Ethnic groups |
| • Borders | • Money |
| • Oil | • Terrorism |
| • Independence | • Land grab |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.