Killing Bin Laden

Activity One – Read the statements and debate (with your partner or teacher). Use the following expressions:

I feel that… I don't believe that… I don't feel that… I don't see why… I'm convinced that… I'm not convinced that… It's is far from certain that… It seems sure that… There's no proof that… It's highly unlikely that…	It's ridiculous to think that… There's no way that… It would be absurd to think that… Clearly… Obviously… In my view… It obvious that… It's clear that

1. Bin Laden is probably not dead. It's all propaganda.
2. Bin Laden should not have been killed, it's morally wrong.
3. It makes no difference if Bin Laden is dead or alive.
4. It's important for the families of his victims that Bin Laden has had to pay for his crimes.
5. It would have been much better to take Bin Laden alive as he could not have been made into a Martyr by his followers.
6. Bin Laden must have secured a plan for his succession, which will be even more terrible than the plan for his survival.
7. Bin Laden was an evil man and no one else could be as evil and take over from him.
8. The Americans should not have got rid of his body.
9. The Americans should release video footage of the killing and photos of the body, to the world.
10. It was totally immoral to kill Bin Laden.
11. Bin Laden was a coward until the end.
12. We have reduced ourselves to his level by killing Bin Laden with no trial.
13. World peace will be ensured now that Bin Laden is dead.
14. There will be a big terrorist backlash in revenge for Bin Laden's death.
15. Bin Laden was a bloodthirsty warmonger whose agenda was entirely based on a desire for personal power and who had no real religious conviction.

Activity Two – Use the following idiomatic expressions to talk about the killing of Bin Laden.

- Two rights don't make a wrong
- Revenge is sweet!
- Revenge is a dish best served cold.
- To stick to your guns.
- A double-edged sword.
- To bury the hatchet.
- To cross swords.



Activity Three – **Read the article paying attention to your intonation and stress and then answer the questions.**

Bin Laden, millionaire with a dangerous grudge

(CNN) Bin Laden, an Islamic fundamentalist and the son of a Saudi billionaire, has been on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list since 1999, and the U.S. State Department offered a $5 million reward for his arrest.

Bid Laden was the leader of al Qaeda (Arabic for "the Base"), a worldwide network blamed for both successful and failed strikes on U.S. targets. These include the millennium bombing plot, the attack on the USS Cole in Yemen and the nearly simultaneous bombings of the U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya in 1998 as well as the 9 11 attacks and other subsequent ones.

Bin Laden's anger with the United States stems from the 1990 decision by Saudi Arabia to allow the U.S. to stage attacks on Iraqi forces in Kuwait and Iraq. After the U.S. victory, the U.S. military presence became permanent.

In a CNN interview with bin Laden in 1997, he said the ongoing U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia is an "occupation of the land of the holy places." He left Saudi Arabia in 1991 after feuding with the Saudi monarchy, taking assets that had grown to an estimated $250 million with him, U.S. officials say.

In 1996, bin Laden issued a "fatwah," a religious ruling urging Muslims to kill U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia and Somalia. A second fatwah in 1998 called for attacks on American civilians.

Network dates back to Afghan war

Bin Laden began forming his network in 1979, when he went to Afghanistan to fight the Soviets alongside Afghan resistance fighters known as the mujahedeen.He used his family's connections and wealth to raise money for the Afghan resistance and provide the mujahedeen with logistical and humanitarian aid, and participated in several battles in the Afghan war.

As the war with the Soviets drew to a close, bin Laden formed al Qaeda, an organization of ex-mujahedeen and other supporters channeling fighters and funds to the Afghan resistance.Once the Soviets pulled out of Afghanistan, bin Laden returned to Saudi Arabia to work for the family construction firm, the bin Laden Group. He became involved in Saudi groups opposed to the reigning Saudi monarchy, the Fahd family.

In 1994, the Saudi government stripped him of his citizenship and froze any remaining assets he may have had in the country.

Al Qaeda linked to other radical groups

Bin Laden was believed to be at the center of an international coalition of Islamic radicals. Al Qaeda has forged alliances with like-minded fundamentalist groups such as Egypt's Al Jihad, Iran's Hezbollah, Sudan's National Islamic Front, and groups in Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Somalia

Bin Laden's organization also has ties to the "Islamic Group," led at one time by Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, the Egyptian cleric serving a life sentence since his 1995 conviction for a thwarted plot to blow up various New York landmarks. Two of Sheik Rahman's sons joined forces with bin Laden in the late 1990s.

The United States alleges that from 1992 on, bin Laden and other al Qaeda members targeted U.S. military forces in Saudi Arabia and Yemen and those stationed in the Horn of Africa, including Somalia.

In October 1993, 18 U.S. servicemen involved in the U.S. humanitarian relief effort in Somalia were killed during an operation in Mogadishu. One soldier's body was dragged through the streets.

Bin Laden was indicted in 1996 on charges of training the people involved in the attack and in a 1997 interview with CNN, bin Laden said his followers, together with local Muslims, killed those troops.

On August 7, 1998, eight years after the U.S. deployment in Saudi Arabia, a pair of truck bombs exploded outside the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Bin Laden denied responsibility, but prosecutors allege his culpability is evident on faxes sent by his London cell to at least three international media outlets. They also point to incriminating statements by certain alleged embassy bombers who are admitted al Qaeda members.

Nearly two weeks later, on August 20, 1998, President Clinton ordered cruise missile attacks against suspected terrorist training camps in Afghanistan and a pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum, Sudan.

Bin Laden survived the strikes and was indicted by the United States on charges of masterminding the attacks in November 1998.

1. Did you learn anything new from this article ?
2. How many years was Bin Laden active as a terrorist ?
3. What triggered his desire to plot agains the USA ?
4. Which events involving Bin Laden ran up to the September the 11th attacks ?
5. Which other groups was Al Quaida linked to ?

Activity Four - Read through the questions below and then watch the video – your aim is to answer the questions.

BBC: Osama Bin Laden; Dead or Alive (1/6)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cpqg9SF2x50

1. What is the first question asked in the video?
2. Why do people feel he is dead?
3. Which mission was Dalton Fury responsible for?
4. Where was Bin Laden seen for the last time in public?
5. Where did he retreat to?
6. How did they identify where he was at that point?
7. How long did it take for Afganistan to fall?
8. What did they pay the warlord for?
9. Why was this a mistake?
10. What were the Afgans afraid of and why did they go home at night?
11. What did Hank Crampton show the president?
12. What did the special forces need?
13. What other things did the government deny the special forces?
14. How did the US and UK forces trap Bin Laden?
15. Why did Bin Laden write his will?
16. Where did the officials say he was?
17. Why couldn't the warlords be trusted and why were they likely to be 'a day late and a dollar short'?
18. Why is there a conspiracy theory here?



Activity Five - Using the correct past tenses re-tell the story of Osama Bin Laden's life.