

How to stay calm and think about WW3

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Threat: In the past few days America has ordered a carrier strike group, a fighter squadron and warships including the massive aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (above) to the Middle East.

Are we panicking? The world is watching Iran after a deadly strike by Israel. Could their fighting drag in the whole world?

What's happening?

World War One began with the killing of one man, **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** of Austria. In four years, 20 million people died.

No one wants a repeat. But last week, **Hamas** leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed in **Iran** by a likely Israeli bomb.

Iran has been left **embarrassed**. Now, some think they will respond by attacking **Israel**.

Find out more

What might happen after that? Some worry that the rest of the world will be dragged in. The USA will help Israel. Russia will help Iran. China might choose to attack **Taiwan** while there is chaos.

But will it happen? Many **experts** think it is unlikely. Before World War One, many European countries thought they could win.

Today, the countries in the **Middle East** know that war would be very hard. Iran will not want to risk being at war with the powerful Americans.

Israel knows that in a big war, its highly skilled workers would likely leave. Their **economy** would suffer. And a war with Iran would mean attacks from all directions.

What is most likely to happen, experts say, is that Iran will respond to the attack — but not with such a big attack that Israel declares war. We will go on as before.

And even if a war between Israel and Iran did begin, other countries may not want to get involved. This would mean no world war.

Almost all of the world's countries buy and sell goods from and to each other. They will not want war to stop this.

Are we panicking?

Some say

Yes! The world today is connected in so many ways. War would be bad for everybody. So there are lots of good reasons for countries to stop and think very carefully before starting one.

Others think

No! The Middle East is in a deadly game. Countries want to show how strong they are, but they also do not want to trigger other countries into attacking them. This is hard to get right.

FOR YOUR SUMMER READING CHALLENGE CLUE GO TO STEP SIX IN THE SIX STEPS TO DISCOVERY BELOW.

Six steps to discovery

Some people say

1. Connect

"War does not determine who is right – only who is left."

Bertrand Russell (1872 – 1970), British thinker

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What do you think?

How do you feel about this story? - Are you worried for the future of our planet?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: Can we hope for a world with no war?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain and one thing we cannot say for sure.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - When, if ever, is it right to go to war? Discuss as a class.

5. Express

What do others believe? - Are our current world leaders good enough?

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - Summer Reading Challenge Day 11 Clue: What war began with the killing of Archduke Franz Ferdinand? Download your challenge entry form [here](#) and fill in the answers to the clues.

Glossary

World War One - A war that included many European countries between 1914 and 1918.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand - The heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary. He was assassinated in Sarajevo in June 1914 aged 50, which led to the start of World War One.

Hamas - A militant Palestinian organisation, which has controlled the Gaza Strip since 2007. It is listed as a terrorist organisation in the UK.

Iran - A country in Western Asia, officially called the Islamic Republic of Iran. It has a population of 84 million.

Embarrassed - Feeling ashamed or self-conscious.

Israel - A country in the Middle East, and the only Jewish nation in the modern period. It is seen by Jews, Christians and Muslims as the Holy Land.

Taiwan - An island country in east Asia. China still claims to be the legitimate owner of Taiwan, while the Taiwanese government until recently claimed to be the legitimate government of the whole of China.

Experts - Someone who knows a lot about a particular subject.

Middle East - The lands around the east of the Mediterranean Sea and Arabia.

Economy - The way that money flows through a country, which affects wages and the cost of living.