Overview

This program is to be used as a means for students to review and analyze key concepts and events from the Cold War. The program is to be used to refresh student's memories of key events and concepts before assessments or any other time deemed necessary.

The content is aimed at students in 7-8 grade. The language is selected purposefully to ensure comprehension and understanding by students of all levels. The content works to follow the NYS Learning Standards and Benchmarks for the Social Studies Content Area as well as learning goals for this topic.

The goals are:

1. Students will be able to compare different ideological systems and estimate the sustainability of each as a governmental system.

2. Students will be able to compare the different policies and alliances that made the Cold War such a tense time.

3. Students will evaluate and assess the long-term ramifications of Cold War events in terms of American and Global History.

4. Students will be able to diagram and select the different geographical locations that Cold War events took place.

How to Use this Book

Greetings! This book is created to help review key events of the Cold War. Each page is filled with pictures and text to guide you on your journey!
There are also three characters to help you on your way, located on the bottom of the
screen.

Duncan - Duncan is the small dog with glasses and he will aid you reading what is on
the screen.

Hali - Hali is the green lizard. Hali is there to ask you questions about the slides. She
is going to help you think about what happened in the Cold War.

Bot - Bot is the small robot, the last one in line. He is going to help give you
understand the questions Hali asks, and what all the text on each page means.

If you see underlined words, they bring you to a glossary of definitions to help you as
you read along.

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The Cold War: A Review of Concepts and Events

By: Scott Ball
A World in Rubble

After World War II, much of the world was in disarray. Many countries had been decimated completely. Economies have been ruined after many nations have dedicated all their resources to maintaining the costly war effort. Millions of people were displaced after their homes and business had been destroyed through the fighting.

The United Nations steps to the forefront as a means to protect peace, and provide stability and direction in a shaky world. Many nations are unsure of their future and what the coming years will mean for their countries.

Two Nations Emerge:

With extensive damage to many nations, there emerged two Superpowers. These
countries were the United States and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Commonly referred to as the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union comprised of Eastern European nations with Russia at its base, who were bound by a common ideology known as Communism. Communism was at odds with the foundation of the United States, which was Capitalism.

Communist Expansion and Pressure: United States Responds

One of the main goals of the Soviet Union was to see the other nations of the World adopt their ideology. The United States in opposition, sought to ensure that all countries of the World became capitalist. This naturally placed the two against each other.

With a weakened Europe following World War II, the Soviet Union loomed over the continent looking to instill Communism in the rebuilding nations. Naturally, the United States worked to oppose the adoption of Communism in these countries. To protect the countries from Communism the United States provided large amounts of aid through the Marshall Plan. The American President, Harry S. Truman issued the Truman Doctrine, that any country working to remain capitalist would be protected and supported by the United States.

Germany Divided

After World War II there was much hostility and fear of Germany. Germany by this point had crippled Europe by being the focal point in two devastating World Wars. Because of this it was agreed that Germany should be divided to avoid her becoming too strong.

Each of the victorious parties received a stake in Germany and divided her capital Berlin, between the four victorious parties. The United States and her allies controlled Western Berlin and the Soviets controlling Eastern Berlin. An elaborate Wall was
constructed in 1961 between the two sections called the Berlin Wall. This Wall divided families, and became a symbol of the Cold War and the differences between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Conflicts over control

Each player in this conflict sought to ensure their viewpoint existed in the World. Communists wanted to see communism spread across the world and the United States wished to see capitalism remain.

The debate over which idea was best lead to armed conflict between the two sides in many places. The United States had two theories that pushed them to interfere militarily in different countries. They were the domino theory, and containment. Two Wars that the United States became involved in because of their policy of containment were the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

A Game with Many Players

The Cold War was so large because it involved nearly the entire World. As the two sides began to increase tensions they made sure they knew who their allies were. Both sides created elaborate alliances to protect themselves.

The Soviet Union created an alliance system under the Warsaw Pact. This alliance unified the countries under the Soviet Union and who were friends to Communism, they were mainly Eastern European countries.

The United States created a union called N.A.T.O. This served the same purpose as the Warsaw Pact. It was to create a system of alliances so the United States new which countries were committed to maintaining capitalism, and to send a message to the Soviet Union. These countries were mainly Western European nations.
The tensions that existed between the two nations engaged in a deadly arms race that nearly brought the World into a nuclear free-for-all.

The highest point of the Cold War for both sides came in Fall 1962, over the country of Cuba. The Soviet Union wished to place nuclear weapons in Cuba and this frightened the United States. John F. Kennedy, the President of the United States, ordered a naval blockade of the island nation. The Soviet Union could not get the weapons to Cuba and they were forced to abandon the mission. This was the first time the two nations had come face to face militarily. The entire World watched as the threat of Nuclear War passed them by. This event was called the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Tensions Lesson

The threat of nuclear War placed a great deal of anxiety on both sides of the conflict. As years went on, the intense stress between the two sides began to lesson as leaders worked to make the world a safer place. Both sides began to realize that the threat of nuclear War was something that was more important than differences in opinion.

United States President Richard Nixon, worked to create a policy called detente. Which meant a lessening of tensions. He worked to bridge the gap between the two nations and make the threat of nuclear War something of the past. The Soviet Union was also facing large difficulties in keeping the many different ethnicities and countries they controlled in their Union. The Soviet Union was slowly starting to weaken.

Cold War Ends

The Cold War was a conflict that never saw the two sides engage in actual battle. The two nations battled in the media, and in foreign policy. As the years went on, new leaders brought new ideas and the Cold War began to end.

The defining moment that signifies the end of the Cold War in the minds of many happens in Germany. The Berlin Wall which had been a symbol of the opposition of the two sides, was taken down in 1989. Many people lined the streets and hammered and broke the Wall down. It was a way for people to act out against the fear and anger that they felt living with the anxiety of Nuclear War. With the taking down of the Wall, the Cold War officially ended.
The Cold War finally ending. The Cold War was finally put to rest after the Berlin Wall was taken down and East and West Germany were allowed to once again meet. The Soviet Union put the real end to the Cold War on Christmas Day in 1991 when the Soviet Union officially collapsed.

Ordinary People
The Cold War is an important time of American History. Like many engagements with foreign countries, the Cold War greatly impacted people at home. Each time the United States and the Soviet Union met in a competition, the stakes were raised.

For ordinary people the Cold War was scary as there was always a constant fear of nuclear war. The idea was that if nuclear war would happen, neither country or its people would survive. Many people built bombshelters and stockpiled supplies in their homes in case war happened. There was also a fear that the Soviet Union would attempt to invade the United States with spies and make everyone Communist. This led to almost panic in the United States, called the Red Scare and was aided by the work of Senator Joseph McCarthy.

One famous showdown between the two rivals happened over a hockey game in Lake Placid, NY, remembered by Americans as "The Miracle". The United States defeated the Soviet team at hockey, their best sport. Many applied the tensions over the Cold War unto the sides of the game.

Works Cited & Resources


The Cold War dominated international affairs for decades and caused major crises such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and Vietnam being some. What was the Cold War? Citation: C N Trueman "What was the Cold War?" historylearningsite.co.uk. The History Learning Site, 25 May 2015. 1 Feb 2019. The Cold War is the name given to the relationship that developed primarily between the USA and the USSR after World War Two.