

## The Cold War

Defending democracy: responses to fascism and communism [USII.T3]



### Discovery:

Analyze the factors that contributed to the Cold War and describe the policy of containment as a response by the United States to Soviet expansionist policies, using evidence from primary sources to explain the differences between the Soviet and American political and economic systems; Soviet aggression in Eastern Europe; the Korean War, United States support of anti-communist regimes in Latin America and Southeast Asia; the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, NATO, and the Warsaw Pact.

Explain what communism is as an economic system and analyze the sources of Cold War conflict; on a political map of the world, locate the areas of Cold War conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in the 1950s to the 1980s. Use AHM's signage to discover the geography and effects of the Cold War.

### United States and globalization [USII.T5]

Analyze how the failure of communist economic policies and U.S.-sponsored resistance to Soviet military and diplomatic initiatives contributed to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 resulting in the end of the Cold War.

### The Cold War Era, 1945–1991 [WHII.T5]

Analyze the causes for the decline and collapse of the Soviet Union and the communist regimes of Eastern Europe, including the increasingly costly geopolitical competition with the United States, the growing gap between the economies of Western and Eastern Europe, the impact on people's lives, the toll of extended military conflict in Afghanistan, and the weakening popular support for communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Students may use the fall of the Berlin Wall as an example.

### Essential Questions:

1. What were the causes and consequences of the construction of the Berlin Wall, and how did it impact the lives of people living in East and West Berlin?
2. What lessons can we learn from the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall, and how can we apply these lessons to contemporary global challenges and conflicts?

### Berlin Wall Overview and Activity:

The Berlin Wall was a physical barrier that divided the German capital of Berlin from 1961 to 1989. The wall was constructed by the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) in an effort to prevent the mass emigration of its citizens to West Germany. The wall stretched for 155 kilometers and was made up of concrete walls, barbed wire, guard towers, and mines. The wall not only separated the two parts of Berlin, but it also separated families and friends, as well as

hindered economic and cultural exchange between the two sides.

The fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989 marked a significant moment in world history and signaled the end of the Cold War. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of communist rule in Eastern Europe were some of the most significant consequences of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Today, the Berlin Wall is a symbol of division and a reminder of the many sacrifices made by people on both sides of the wall. It serves as a symbol of the human desire for freedom, unity, and democracy.

**Materials:**

Story Boards

Reader rails

A section of the Berlin Wall in Cold War exhibit

Photos of the Berlin Wall (public domain)

Clipboards

White Paper

Colored pencils



**Procedure:**

Warm-up: Direct the students to the story board to get a further understanding of the Cold War. Begin the lesson by asking students if they have heard of the Berlin Wall.

Introduce the topic by providing a brief overview of the history of the Berlin Wall, and its significance in world history.

**Assignment:**

Provide a discussion that includes the following topics:

- a. History of the Berlin Wall
- b. Building of the Wall and its impact on the people of Berlin
- c. Artistic responses to the Wall
- d. Removal of the Wall and the fate of the artwork

Provide a handout that includes images of artwork on the Berlin Wall. Ask students to analyze the artwork and answer a set of questions related to the content.

Show images of artwork on the Berlin Wall and provide a brief description of each.

Independent Practice (15 minutes)

1. Ask students to create their own artwork inspired by the artwork on the Berlin Wall.
2. Provide art supplies (paints, markers, paper, etc.) and allow students to work independently.
3. Encourage students to think about the themes and messages conveyed by the artwork on the Berlin Wall.

**Conclusion:**

1. Have students share their artwork with the class.