

Unit 8

5th Grade Social Studies Cold War Study Guide



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Unit 8—Cold War Study Guide

Name: _____

SS5H7 The student will discuss the origins and consequences of the Cold War.

- Explain the origin and meaning of the term "Iron Curtain."
- Explain how the United States sought to stop the spread of communism through the Berlin airlift, the Korean War, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
- Identify Joseph McCarthy and Nikita Khrushchev.

SS5H8 The student will describe the importance of key people, events, and developments between 1950-1975.

- Discuss the importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War.
- Discuss the significance of the technologies of television and space exploration.

SS5H9 The student will trace important developments in America since 1975.

- Describe U.S. involvement in world events; include the collapse of the Soviet Union.

SS5E1d Explain how voluntary exchange helps both buyers and sellers (such as how specialization leads to the need to exchange to get wants and needs).

SS5CG3b Explain how voting rights were protected by the 26th amendment.

SS5E1f Give examples of technological advancements and their impact on business productivity during the development of the United States.

Vocabulary	
Capitalism	<i>An economic system in which ordinary people and businesses control the flow of money. The United States is based on the idea of capitalism. The main advantage of this system is that it is based on competition. Businesses and individuals must compete to earn money, requiring them to do their best or suffer the consequences.</i>
Draft	<i>The draft is when you are selected by your government to serve in the military during a time of war, even if you don't want to. All men over the age of 18 are required to register for the draft. The draft was used during both world wars, but really drew attention during the Vietnam War, because so many people disagreed with the war and protested the draft.</i>
Communism	<i>An economic system in which the government controls the flow of money. The system sounds good in theory, because it is presented as making things fair for everybody. Problems usually exist though, because the government controls everything, which leads to terrible dictators like Joseph Stalin (Soviet Union) or Mao Zedong (China) who murdered millions of their own people. The other problem is that people aren't motivated to work hard, because the system isn't based on competition.</i>
Arms Race	<i>During the Cold War both the United States and the Soviet Union were terrified of the other country and were afraid the other was going to try to take over the world using their nuclear weapons. As a result both countries began to make as many nuclear weapons as possible to defend themselves in case of war. "Arms" refers to weapons and the "Race" refers to the competition to have the most. Many new technologies were created as a result of the arms race.</i>
Nuclear War	<i>The United States first successfully used an atomic or nuclear bomb at the end of WWII in 1945. Throughout the cold war people all over the world were afraid the U.S. and Soviet Union would try to use them on each other. The tremendous power of the bombs would cause all kinds of problems if nuclear war did occur. Obviously there would be millions of casualties and radiation poisoning would harm millions more. In addition, scientists feared that if many nuclear bombs were set off, the world would experience a nuclear winter, which means that the ash from the bombs would stay in the atmosphere for months or even years and decrease the amount of sun the earth receives causing the earth to go into an extended winter.</i>
Veteran	<i>A veteran is someone who has served in the military.</i>

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Vocabulary (continued)	
Space Race	<i>Similar to the arms race, the U.S. and Soviet Union both raced to dominate in space exploration. They feared what might happen if the other dominated outer space. They were worried about nuclear weapons being launched from space, spying from satellites or that the other country might get some advantage by controlling outer space.</i>
Demonstration	<i>This word has multiple meanings. In the context of this unit, it means a public protest. Many people protested the war in Vietnam, because they didn't believe Americans should be dying in a war on the other side of the world.</i>

SS5H7 The student will discuss the origins and consequences of the Cold War.

SS5H7a. Explain the origin and meaning of the term “Iron Curtain.”

The term “Iron Curtain” was first used by Winston Churchill, the leader of Great Britain, shortly after WWII. He was describing how Europe had been split in half, with all of eastern Europe becoming communist countries and all of western Europe becoming capitalist. This happened mostly because of the way Europe was divided after the War. Germany had been defeated in WWII by Great Britain and the U.S. invading from the West and Stalin and the Soviet Union invading from the East. After the war the Soviet Union wanted countries to become communist and many of the Eastern European countries came under their control. Truman (U.S.) and Churchill (Britain) wanted countries to become capitalist because they feared that communism would cause countries to be ruled by strong government dictators. They feared dictators because dictators have all the power (such as Hitler in Germany). They also feared Stalin. Although he had helped defeat Hitler, he was a cruel dictator who was responsible for the death of more than 20 million of his own people.

Berlin Wall-*The Berlin Wall is often confused with the Iron Curtain. The Berlin wall was actually a wall that was built through the middle of Berlin, Germany. The Iron Curtain is just a figurative divider, meaning it wasn't actually a wall in many places, but just a symbolic divider between communist and capitalist Europe. The Berlin Wall was built August 13, 1961 and it remained in place until 1989, when the Soviet Union was beginning to collapse. The city of Berlin was actually on the communist side of the “Iron Curtain” because it was in East Germany, but the city was split in half after the war. Half fell under Soviet control and half fell under capitalist control.*

Communism

- *Government controls almost everything (in many cases this included property and even what job you had)*
- *Sounds good in theory because they promise equality for all*
- *Because everyone is rewarded “equally” it causes a lack of motivation by workers and businesses to work hard, which causes the economy to suffer*

Note: Many countries today that are considered communist are not completely communist like they were during the cold war. Many of today's communist countries like China still have a lot of government control, but most have free markets which allow for competition in business. Many of the old communist governments like the Soviet Union collapsed because the system had major flaws.

Capitalism

- *People and businesses control much of the economy*
- *The system, in an ideal situation, would reward those who work hard and those who don't would struggle*
- *Competition causes the economy to grow because individuals want to earn more so they work harder, and businesses want to be more successful, so they will do whatever it takes to be the best.*

Note: The U.S. system is based on a free market or capitalist economy.

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SS5H7b. Explain how the United States sought to stop the spread of communism through the Berlin Wall, the Korean War, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Berlin Airlift—Germany was split following WWII into two countries. East Germany was controlled by the Soviet Union and West Germany was controlled by the capitalist allies (U.S., Great Britain). Berlin, the capital, was technically in East Germany, but the agreement drawn up after the war, split the capital into a communist side and a capitalist side as well. The Soviet Union cut off all entrances into the city in 1948, hoping to gain control of the whole city. For the next year the U.S., Great Britain and France sent supply planes over West Berlin and dropped more than 2 million tons of supplies on more than 250,000 flights. The purpose of the airlift was to provide hope for the people in West Berlin so that they could remain free and not fall under communist rule. The airlift worked and the Soviet blockade was eventually lifted. West Berlin remained free.

Korean War—Following WWII, the Soviet Union installed a communist government in North Korea, and the U.S. installed a capitalist government in South Korea. Korea has been controlled by Japan during WWII, but became free after the Japanese lost WWII. The Korean War was fought from 1950-1953. The war started with communist North Korea trying to make the rest of Korea communist. The U.S. intervened with help from the United Nations. When all was said and done, the Korean peninsula remained split exactly as it had been before the war, with North Korea still communist and South Korea still capitalist.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)—NATO was originally a group of capitalist countries that joined together to stop the spread of communism. The key countries were those in Western Europe such as France, Britain and Belgium. It also included key North American countries such as the U.S. and Canada. They agreed to work together to keep communism from spreading and to defend each other if attacked by a communist country. NATO was formed in 1949 and still exists, but since the Cold War ended it is focused on different issues.

SS5H7c. Identify Joseph McCarthy and Nikita Khrushchev

Joseph McCarthy—McCarthy was a U.S. senator who was a major part of the “Red Scare.” Red was symbolic of communism, because both the Soviet Union and China had red flags. He declared that he had a list of communists that worked for the United States government. During the time (1950’s) there were a lot of accusations going around about being a communist and McCarthy was at the heart of it. Many people lost their jobs because of accusations about communism, even if they turned out to not be true.

Nikita Khrushchev—Khrushchev was the leader of the Soviet Union following Joseph Stalin in 1953. He remained the leader until 1964. He is most remembered by Americans for being the Soviet leader who tried to put nuclear missiles on the island of Cuba, which is only 90 miles from the United States, during the Cuban Missile Crisis. After a standoff with John F. Kennedy he backed down and removed the missiles from Cuba.

SS5H8a. Discuss the importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War.

Cuban Missile Crisis—In 1962 Khrushchev of the Soviet Union set up nuclear missiles on the island of Cuba, which was only 90 miles from the Florida coast. President Kennedy set up a naval (ships) blockade around Cuba to prevent any further Soviet supplies or men from arriving in Cuba. He also threatened to invade Cuba (which was a communist country and allies with the Soviet Union), if the missiles were not removed. Khrushchev finally agreed to remove the missiles, if the U.S. promised not to invade Cuba. The U.S. also agreed to remove its own nuclear missiles from Turkey, which was near the border with the Soviet Union.

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Vietnam War—The Vietnam war was very similar in nature to the Korean war. Communist North Vietnam tried to invade non-communist south Vietnam. The U.S. decided to support south Vietnam, despite the fact that it was a small country on the other side of the world, because they feared that if Vietnam fell to communism then the rest of Asia might follow. More than 3 million people were killed in the war and about half of those who died were Vietnam civilians. The U.S. lost almost 60,000 soldiers in the war. Because of television (this is the first time TV brought live updates from a war) reports of all of the civilian casualties and how long (U.S. sent troops for 8 years) and costly the war was, it became very unpopular in the U.S. Protests and even riots in some places took place trying to convince the government to stop the war. The U.S. removed its troops in 1973, and Communist North Vietnam quickly took over Vietnam. For this reason, many people say the U.S. lost the Vietnam war. While the U.S. wasn't actually defeated, they were outlasted and did not get what they wanted out of the conflict.

SS5H8d. Discuss the significance of the technologies of television and space exploration.

Television in the Cold War—Television first became common in U.S. households in the 1950's. TV had an immediate impact because all kinds of pictures and video could be shown in almost every American house very quickly. Advertisements and public service announcements would come across TV advising people to stockpile canned food or even to make bomb shelters in case of nuclear attack. The Cuban Missile Crisis also became a very scary time in the U.S. because TV reports would come across the screen each night with updates on the standoff with the Soviet Union. The Vietnam War was impacted greatly by TV as well. Videos were shown of civilians being killed by U.S. attacks, which caused the war to become very unpopular. Finally, there was a great deal of anti-Vietnam protests in American cities, which also became nightly news.

Significance of Space Exploration—The U.S. and the Soviet Union became involved in yet another competition—A Space Race. Both wanted to be the first to explore space and take hold of any advantages that it might bring their country. Both feared what might happen if the other one got there first. They feared nuclear missiles being launched from satellites in space. They feared spy satellites feeding info to their enemies. They also weren't sure if places like the moon could be claimed and made useful as a territory of their country. The Soviets led the way by launching the first successful satellite, Sputnik, in 1957. The two battled back and forth launching rockets, sending men into space and finally landing a man on the moon (the U.S. in 1969). Both countries and the world gained quite a bit from this intense competition. Satellite technology began, which impacted radios, TVs and phones, just to name a few things.

SS5CG3b Explain how voting rights were protected by the 26th amendment.

The Vietnam War was largely responsible for the passing of the 26th amendment. The amendment lowered the voting age from 21 to 18. Vietnam was very unpopular among many Americans, but many who disagreed with the war were being drafted and required to serve in the war anyway. Any man over the age of 18 has to register for the draft, but they were not allowed to vote until they turned 21. Many people found this very unfair, because they were being forced to risk their lives for their country, even though they didn't want to fight in the war, but they weren't able to vote against the people sending them to war. The 26th amendment passed in 1971.

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In order to show a true understanding of the history, you should be able to identify each important event on the map below. Identify and label the important locations from the Cold War listed below. As you can see on the map below the cold war affected people all over the world, not just in the U.S.

Berlin Airlift _____A_____

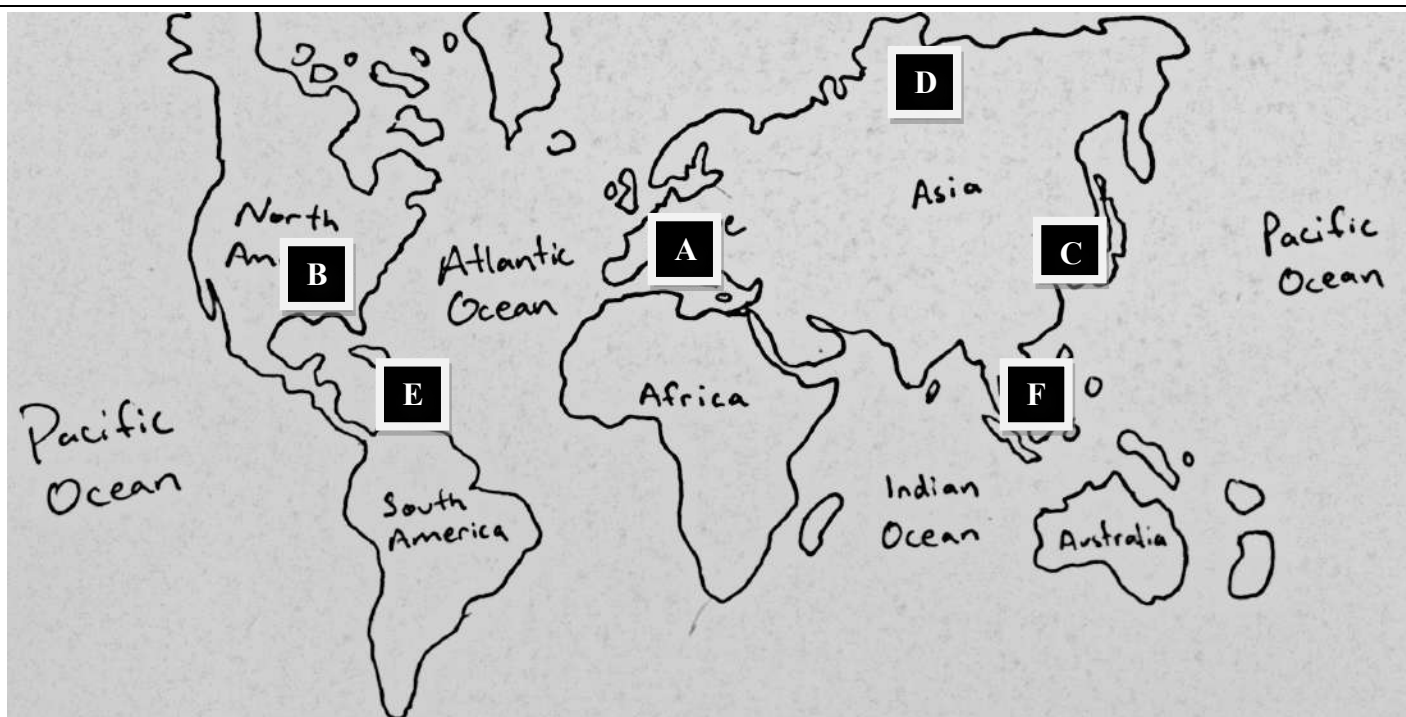
Vietnam War _____F_____

Korean War _____C_____

Cuban Missile Crisis _____E_____

Soviet Union _____D_____

United States _____B_____



SS5H9 The student will trace important developments in America since 1975.

a. Describe U.S. involvement in world events; include the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The Cold War began to come to an end when the Berlin Wall came down in 1989. When East Germany gained their freedom, many communist countries in East Europe got rid of their communist leaders and elected new government officials. The Soviet Union came apart soon after and by 1991, many of the countries that had been part of the Soviet Union gained their independence. The Soviet economy simply could not keep up with the thriving capitalist economies that were based on voluntary exchange and competition. When the Soviet Union collapsed the Cold War was over. Many problems still exist and many countries still have distrust for each other. Countries like North Korea and Iran, who are mistrusted by many around the globe, are still trying to make nuclear weapons of their own. While the U.S. and the Soviet Union have been getting rid of some of their nuclear weapons, they still have several thousand nuclear weapons ready for use. In addition, France, Great Britain, India, Pakistan, and China also have nuclear weapons (Israel is believed to have many weapons of their own, but they will not confirm that fact).

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SS5E1d Explain how voluntary exchange helps both buyers and sellers (such as how specialization leads to the need to exchange to get wants and needs).

Voluntary exchange literally means to exchange or trade something because you want to and not because you are forced. During the cold war, countries were classified as either communist or capitalist. Capitalism is based on the idea that businesses and individuals should have freedom to choose how they want to business and with whom. This choice motivates companies and individuals to work hard, so that they can be successful. Businesses must compete with one another to earn business. This is good for the buyer because businesses want to do their very best and keep their prices low. It is also good for the seller, because if the government is forcing companies to do business in a certain way, then the workers aren't as motivated because they don't have any control over how to run their business, even if they have a better idea. When the government controls all exchange or business, the people and businesses don't work as hard and don't care as much about the quality of their business.

On a larger scale, most countries specialize in producing certain things. For example, Vietnam specialized in rubber, because it is a resource that they have a lot of in their country. Other countries that can't produce their own rubber are dependent on countries like Vietnam that have rubber. Voluntary exchange means that countries don't have to exchange or trade with other countries they don't like. However, they also need certain things, so they need to make sure they are being friendly towards other countries that have the resources that they need. Voluntary exchange means that countries can buy and sell goods with only the countries that they want, so it is a motivation for countries to keep a friendly relationship with one another, so they can get all the things that they need.