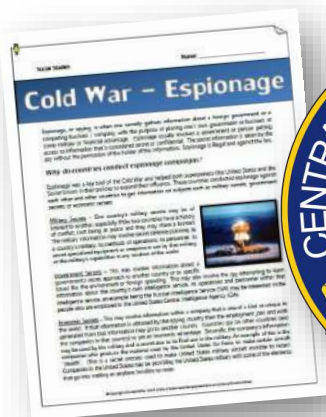
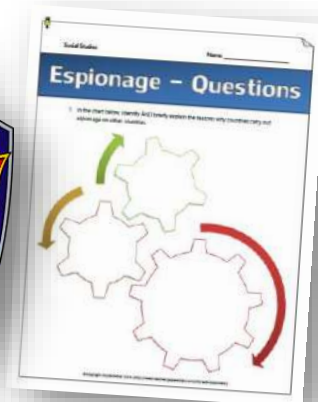




Cold War Espionage



VS.



**Reading with Analysis Questions,
Webquest, Article Assignment and
Detailed Teachers Key**

By: Brodie Millar



Cold War – Espionage

Espionage, or spying, is when one secretly gathers information about a foreign government or a competing business / company, with the purpose of placing one's own government or business at some military or financial advantage. Espionage usually involves a government or person getting access to information that is considered secret or confidential. The secret information is taken by the spy without the permission of the holder of the information. Espionage is illegal and against the law.

Why do countries conduct espionage campaigns?

Espionage was a key tool of the Cold War and helped both superpowers (the United States and the Soviet Union) in their policies to expand their influence. These countries conducted espionage against each other and other countries to get information on subjects such as military secrets, government secrets; or economic secrets.

Military Secrets – One country's military secrets may be of interest to another, especially if the two countries have a history of conflict, (not being at peace and they may share a border). The military information may involve secret defense planning by a country's military, its methods of operations, its personnel, its secret specialized equipment or weapons in use by that military, or the military's capabilities in any location of the world.



Government Secrets – This may involve information about a government's secret approach to another country or to specific issues like the environment or foreign spending. This may also involve the spy attempting to learn information about the country's own intelligence service, its operations and personnel within that intelligence service, an example being the Russian Intelligence Service (SVR) may be interested in the people who are employed in the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Economic Secrets – This may involve information within a company that is one of a kind or unique to the world. If that information is obtained by the spying country then the employment jobs and work generated from that information may go to another country. Countries spy on other countries (and the companies in that country) to get an economic advantage. Secondly, the company's information may be used by the military and is secret due to its final use in the military. An example of this is the companies who produce the material used by the United States Air Force to make certain aircraft "stealth". (This is a secret process used to make United States military aircraft invisible to radar). Companies in the United States may be providing the United States military with some of the elements that go into making an airplane invisible to radar.

How do countries conduct espionage activities?

During the Cold War both superpowers (and many other major nations) maintained government agencies related to espionage (spying) and intelligence gathering. For example, in the United States these functions were carried out by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The CIA's Cold War activities ranged from general surveillance of suspected foreign agents, to the deployment of agents abroad, to



illicit operations like assassinations and human experimentation. The CIA also supported US foreign policy by providing support, funding and equipment to anti-communist leaders and groups abroad. The Soviet Union maintained its own agencies, most notably the KGB (Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti, or 'Committee for National Security'). The KGB assumed responsibility for both domestic security and foreign intelligence. Decades of experience, along with a greater preparedness to employ devious tactics, gave the Soviet Union a distinct 'head start' when it came to espionage. During World War II, Moscow prioritised the infiltration of the Manhattan Project, America's nuclear weapons research program. Soviet agents were able to obtain and pass on technical information about this program, including blueprints, with remarkable ease.



The most effective way to gather information and intelligence about the enemy, (or potential enemy), is by infiltrating the enemy's (or other country's) government. This is the job of the spy, (or an espionage agent). Spies can bring back all sorts of information concerning the size and strength of the other country's military and its capabilities.

A country will attempt to recruit an 'agent' or person from another country. This recruited agent is called a 'human source'. A good human source is of great value to a country as he or she may be deeply involved in the other country's intelligence service, military or access to secret information of an economic advantage.

Spying is also conducted by the interception of communications. Examples are telephone calls, e-mails, or text messages.

Today, some countries now have the ability to conduct cyber espionage against another country. This is when access to restricted or secret computer data banks is illegally made. That information is then illegally transferred to the attacking country. This type of interception may be of a more general nature targeting another country's specific government department or it may be targeted to a specific person.

Espionage has been going on for a number of years. In the 1960's the intense espionage activity between the United States and the Soviet Union and China involved nuclear weapons secrets. More recently espionage agencies have targeted the illegal drug trade and persons believed to be terrorists. Since 2008 the United States has charged at least 57 people for attempting to spy for China.

Examples of Espionage during the Cold War

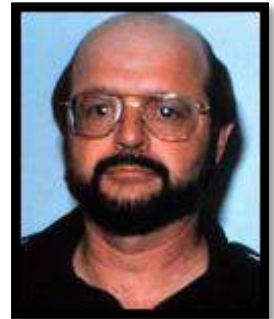
There were several examples of espionage and spying during the years of the Cold War and for the purposes of one superpower trying to gain an advantage over the other.



Julius and Ethel Rosenberg

For example, in 1951, Jewish-Americans Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were tried and convicted of espionage against the government of the United States for stealing and providing secret information to the Soviet Union. The information was about American military secrets and may have included information about American advancements in the development of the atomic bomb. Julius Rosenberg was an electrical engineer who worked for the Army Signal Corps, which allowed him access to technical information and to other people who were working on military related projects. After being discovered, Julius and Ethel underwent a very public trial which ended with their execution for "anti-American" activities. The couple became the first American citizens to be executed for espionage in the United States.

Another and very damaging case of espionage in United States history was the John Walker spy ring, which operated from 1967 to 1985. John Walker Jr. and his son, Michael L. Walker, brother, Arthur J. Walker, and friend, Jerry A. Whitworth, supplied the country of the Soviet Union, (now Russia) with secret United States information including codes from the U.S. Navy that allowed the Soviets to learn of over a million Navy messages. The Walker ring also sold the Soviets classified material concerning the Soviet shooting of a Korean Airlines jet in 1983 and U.S. military offensives during the Vietnam War. John Walker pleaded guilty to espionage and was sentenced to a life term in prison. Michael Walker pleaded guilty and was sentenced to twenty-five years in prison. Arthur Walker was convicted and sentenced to a life term in prison. Jerry Whitworth received a sentence of 365 years for stealing and selling Navy coding secrets. The Walker spy ring cost the United States a lot of damage and money. The United States had to spend over a billion dollars to rebuild their entire communications system.



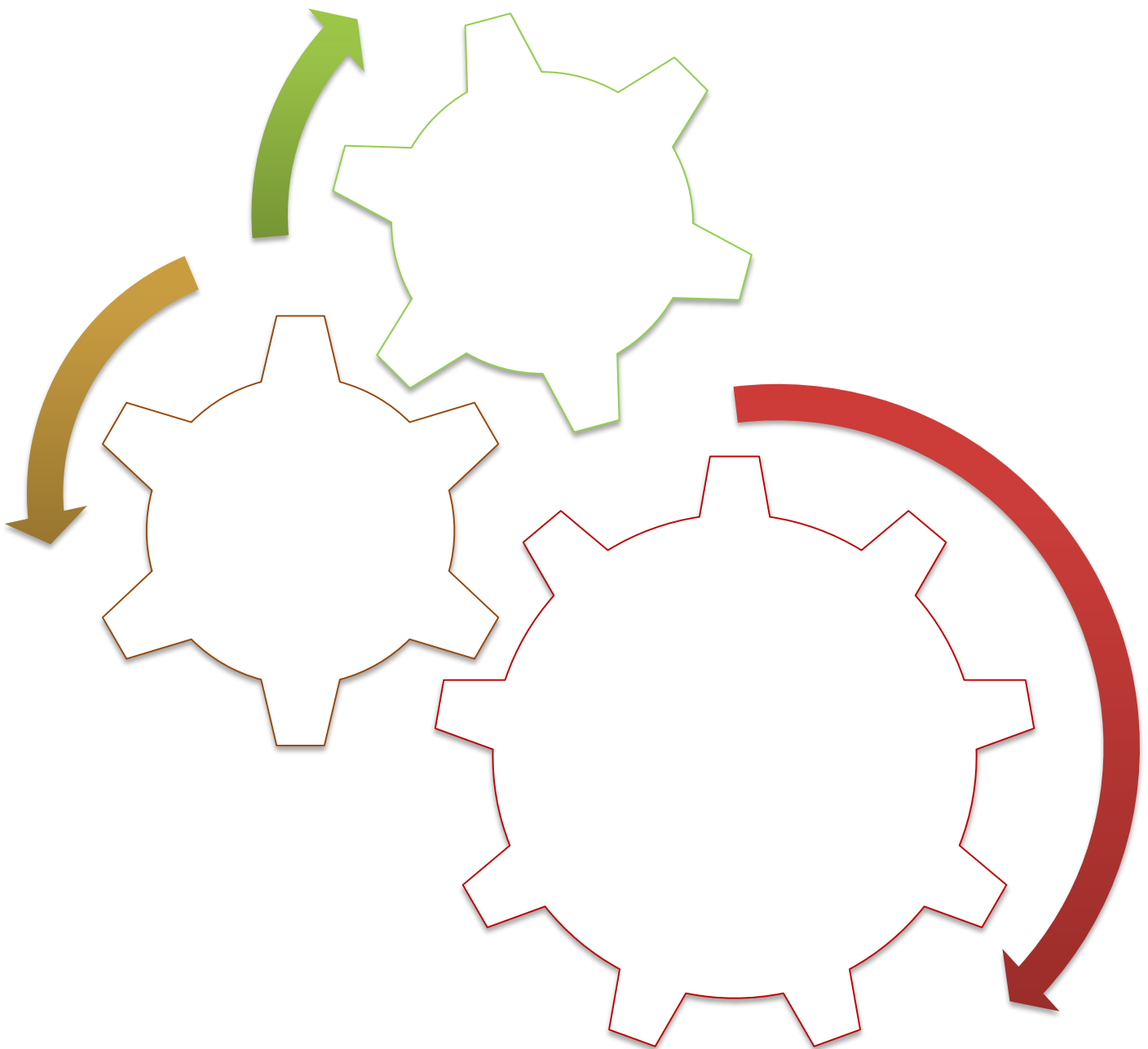
John Walker

A final example of a very damaging spy to the United States was the case of Mr. Aldrich Ames. He was employed in the United States Central Intelligence Agency but was recruited by the Soviet Union and sold secret information to them from 1985 to 1993. Ames was later determined to have been responsible for the execution of about a dozen (12) agents spying for the United States. These were persons employed with the government of the Soviet Union who were recruited as spies by the United States. Ames had told the Soviets the identities of all these spies. Ames had received over 2 and a half million dollars from the Soviets for his secret information. He was sentenced to life in prison.



Espionage – Questions

1. In the chart below, identify AND briefly explain the reasons why countries carry out espionage on other countries.





2. According to the reading, what is the most effective way to gather information about an enemy nation? Why do you suppose this is? Explain.

3. The reading details several times the role of espionage in the history of the development of atomic weapons. This is especially true during the Cold War. Why do you suppose the development of the atomic bomb was such a central focus for espionage and spying? Explain your reasoning.

4. What appears to be the main motive behind why some people turn against their country and provide information to an "enemy" country?

5. Why do you suppose the United States government chose to pursue the death penalty for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg?

6. Why was the "John Walker Spy Ring" so damaging for the United States?

7. Why do you suppose espionage (spying) was such an important factor of the Cold War? Explain your reasoning.



U-2 Spy Plane Incident

Directions: Complete the following activity by using the website listed below.

<http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/u2-spy-incident>



1. What were the U-2 Spy Planes used for? What information did it provide to the United States?
2. What made the U-2 Spy Planes initially very effective?
3. Briefly explain the events of the shooting down of the U-2 Spy Plane.



4. How did President Dwight Eisenhower respond to the incident? Why did he respond this way?
5. In what ways did the U-2 Spy Plane incident impact Soviet and American relations?
6. What happened to the pilot of the U-2 Spy Plane?
7. In what way was the U-2 Spy Plane incident an example of espionage during the Cold war? Explain.



Modern Espionage

Espionage is not necessarily just a Cold War related activity. It was common before the Cold War and some have argued that it has drastically increased since the end of the Cold War and the fall of the Soviet Union. For this assignment, you will need to find a recent article related to a modern example or incident of espionage and complete the questions below. The purpose is to find up-to-date information on the events of a current event related to espionage or to focus in on a particular aspect of the current event that you find interesting.

First, you will need to find an up-to-date article related to the espionage. You should make use of newspaper or magazine clippings or online resources such as <http://www.nytimes.com/> and <http://www.cnn.com/> or other similar online news sources.

Once you have chosen your article, complete the following:

1. Write a brief summary of the article in your own words, focusing in on the major themes and ideas of the article. (What is it about?)
2. What new information does the article provide regarding the modern advances in the world of espionage? Explain in detail.
3. To what extent is the content of the article related to the events of espionage during the years of the Cold War? Explain.

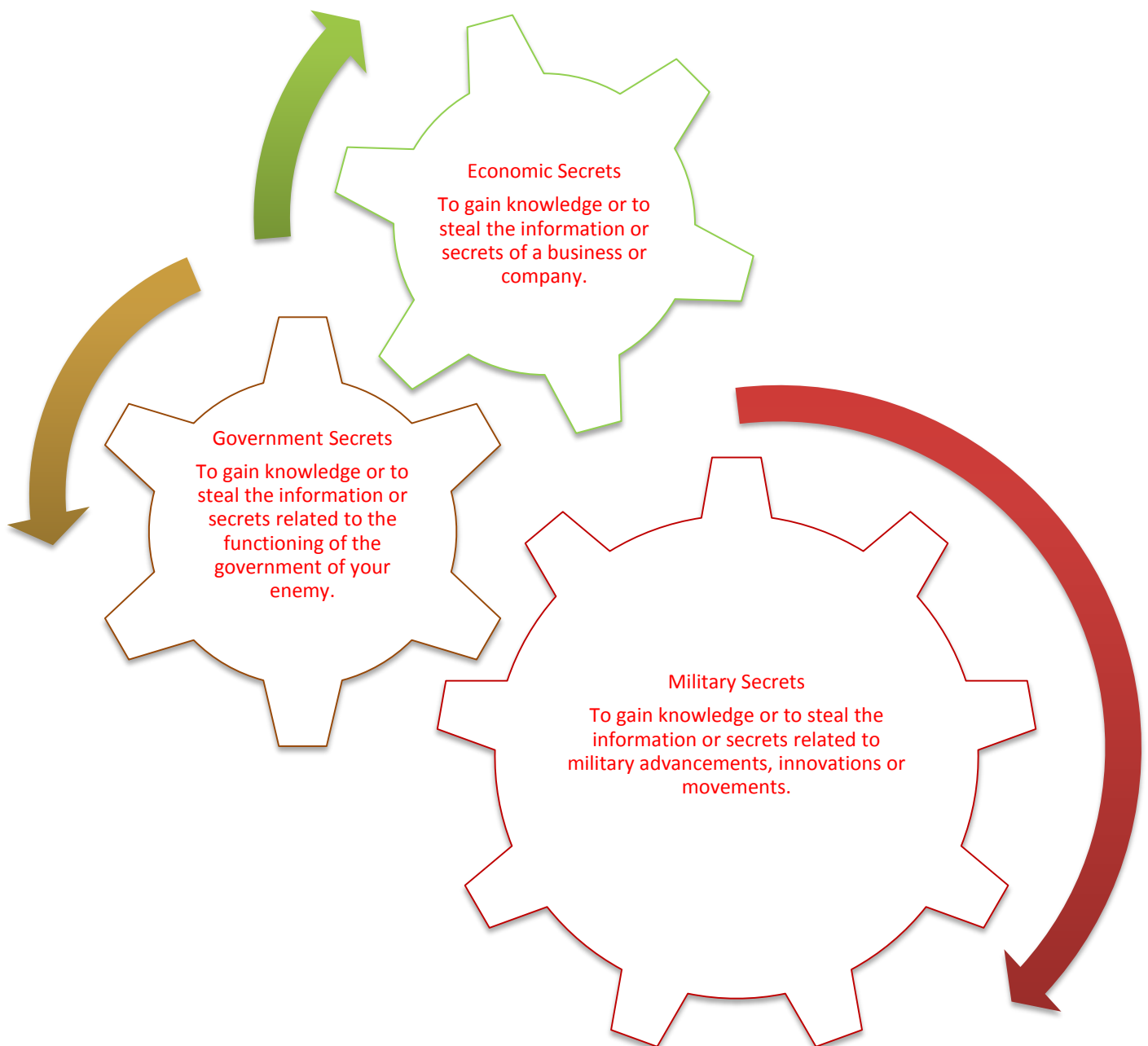


Teachers Key

Name: _____

Espionage – Questions

1. In the chart below, identify AND briefly explain the reasons why countries carry out espionage on other countries.





2. According to the reading, what is the most effective way to gather information about an enemy nation? Why do you suppose this is? Explain.

The most effective way to gather information and intelligence about the enemy, (or potential enemy), is by infiltrating the enemy's (or other country's) government. This is the job of the spy.

3. The reading details several times the role of espionage in the history of the development of atomic weapons. This is especially true during the Cold War. Why do you suppose the development of the atomic bomb was such a central focus for espionage and spying? Explain your reasoning.

Because the atomic bomb was such a devastating weapon that could tip the balance of power in the overall Cold war it was a focus to help assess the technology of the enemy and the number of weapons.

4. What appears to be the main motive behind why some people turn against their country and provide information to an "enemy" country?

Monetary Gain

5. Why do you suppose the United States government chose to pursue the death penalty for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg?

To deter other would be spies from turning against the United States.

6. Why was the "John Walker Spy Ring" so damaging for the United States?

Because it released information about Naval encrypted messages and afterwards the United States needed to spend billions to fix and update their information.

7. Why do you suppose espionage (spying) was such an important factor of the Cold War? Explain your reasoning.

***Student responses may vary. Espionage was important because it showed the competition and ongoing battle between the two superpowers to outdo and expand on each other's developments.



Teachers Key

Name: _____

U-2 Spy Plane Incident

Directions: Complete the following activity by using the website listed below.

<http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/u2-spy-incident>



1. What were the U-2 Spy Planes used for? What information did it provide to the United States?

The USA was using them to capture images that show the development of the Soviet atomic weapons program.

2. What made the U-2 Spy Planes initially very effective?

They could fly at very high altitudes making them difficult to shoot down.

3. Briefly explain the events of the shooting down of the U-2 Spy Plane.

The plane was hit by a newly developed Soviet anti-aircraft rocket and the pilot (Gary Powers) had to parachute to the ground where he would be surrounded and captured by Soviet forces.



4. How did President Dwight Eisenhower respond to the incident? Why did he respond this way?

He denied that the plane was a spy plane because he didn't think the Soviets recovered any data from the plane showing that it was a spy plane.

5. In what ways did the U-2 Spy Plane incident impact Soviet and American relations?

The Soviets and Americans were about to meet at a Summit and the embarrassment of the incident soured the relations before the Summit could begin.

6. What happened to the pilot of the U-2 Spy Plane?

The pilot (Gary Powers) was imprisoned in the Soviet Union for several years before returning to the United States as part of a spy-swap between the two superpowers.

7. In what way was the U-2 Spy Plane incident an example of espionage during the Cold war? Explain.

The plane was a "spy" plane and was part of espionage because it involved one country (the USA) trying to gain an advantage or secret information of another country (Soviet Union).



Modern Espionage

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Once you have chosen your article, complete the following:

1. Write a brief summary of the article in your own words, focusing in on the major themes and ideas of the article. (What is it about?)

Due to the nature of the assignment, this will need to be assessed on as per student, per article basis. The teacher should require students to hand in a copy of their article, or this assignment could be done as a poster assignment, wherein students are required to include their article and analysis of the article. Students could also be required to present their findings back to the class.

2. What new information does the article provide regarding the modern advances in the world of espionage? Explain in detail.

As stated above, this needs to be assessed on per student, per article basis. Possible topics could be modern espionage rings, cyber espionage between China and the United States, etc.

3. To what extent is the content of the article related to the events of espionage during the years of the Cold War? Explain.

Similar to answer #1. Student responses will vary. Assess based on the ability of the student to explain and expand their reasoning.