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| Name: |  | Date: |  |

## Purpose

By researching and investigating different events during the Cold War, you will be able to more fully understand why this conflict was so far-reaching. In addition, you will evaluate how the events of the Cold War led to other conflicts, divisions, and interference in the affairs of other nations. Many of these effects can still be seen in the world today, as certain regions continue to recover from outside influences in their governments.

## Process

In this activity, you will look at a timeline that includes major events from the Cold War. In pairs or small groups, you’ll research events from the timeline to decide who was “winning” the Cold War at that time—the US or the USSR. Then you will post your group’s choice to the large class timeline and explain your reasoning.

1. Get into pairs or small groups and take out the Who Is “Winning” the Cold War? Timeline.
2. Your group is going to be responsible for researching a variety of events on the timeline. Based on what you learn, your group will decide who was “winning” the Cold War at that time. In addition to deciding who was “winning” or pulling ahead at that time, you have to come up with a short rationale explaining your choice (short enough to fit on a sticky note).
3. Your teacher will assign each group a selection of events from the timeline.
4. Before you get started, have a class discussion about what it might mean to “win” the Cold War. Ultimately, it’s up to you and how you defend your choices, but you should keep in mind the three key features of the war as defined by “The Cold War: An Overview”: “1) the threat of nuclear war, 2) competition over the allegiance (loyalty) of newly independent nations, and 3) the military and economic support of each other’s enemies around the world.”
5. Your teacher will assign each sticky note color to a country (for example, blue for the US and pink for the USSR). Once you’ve chosen the “winning” country for each event, write your rationale for that event on that country’s sticky note, and then place it on the larger class timeline.
6. After everyone has posted their sticky notes on the timeline, it should become clear who the winner of the Cold War was—unless there is a tie!
7. Be prepared to give some examples of who you chose and why, and whether it was easy or difficult to decide on a “winner.”
8. Finally, consider and discuss with your class whether there is actually ever a “winner” when it comes to war.

## Cold War Timeline

* 1945 – US drops atomic bombs on Japan; Ho Chi Minh forms the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; People’s Republic of Korea established
* 1947 – Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan
* 1948 – Berlin blockade and Berlin airlift begin; communists take power in Czechoslovakia
* 1949 – NATO established; USSR explodes first “A” bomb; Mao Zedong establishes the People’s Republic of China
* 1950 – McCarthyism begins; Sino-Soviet Treaty signed; Korean War begins
* 1952 – US successfully tests the hydrogen bomb
* 1953 – USSR explodes first hydrogen bomb; Stalin dies; Korean War ends
* 1954 – Geneva Conference (Accords)
* 1955 – Warsaw Pact
* 1956 – Hungarian Revolution
* 1957 – Space race begins with the launching of Sputnik
* 1959 – Cuban Revolution
* 1960 – U-2 reconnaissance (spy) plane incident; USSR sends aid to Patrice Lumumba (Prime Minister of Democratic Republic of the Congo)
* 1961 – Bay of Pigs invasion; Berlin Wall construction begins
* 1962 – Cuban Missile Crisis
* 1963 – Partial nuclear test ban treaty signed (USSR, US, and Britain)
* 1965 – First US combat forces land in Vietnam
* 1967 – Worldwide demonstrations against the Vietnam War take place
* 1968 – USSR invades Czechoslovakia
* 1969 – Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) begin; Ho Chi Minh dies; Nixon announces withdrawal of US forces from Vietnam
* 1972 – Nixon visits China and the Soviet Union
* 1973 – Yom Kippur War
* 1975 – Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) falls to the North Vietnamese
* 1978 – Vietnam invades Cambodia
* 1979 – USSR invades Afghanistan; Sandinista revolutionaries take control of Nicaragua
* 1980 – US boycotts the 1980 Olympics
* 1981 – Reagan announces massive increases to US defense spending
* 1983 – US invades Grenada
* 1986 – Iran-Contra Affair exposed; Reykjavik Summit; Gorbachev institutes reforms (perestroika and glasnost)
* 1987 – Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed
* 1988 – USSR begins removing troops from Afghanistan
* 1989 – Berlin wall comes down
* 1991 – USSR dissolved