

Name Key Date _____

"Duck and Cover" Video Activity

Apply your knowledge of American history to answer the following questions, after reading the Introduction on the class website and watching the video:

1. What events led to the production of this film?

U.S. lived in fear of nuclear attack from Russia - this film was made to prepare in case of an attack.

2. Who was the intended audience?

Students

3. Why do you think those responsible for its production chose a cartoon format for the introduction with Bert the Turtle as the main character?

In order to connect w/ young students / get their attention

4. Viewers today consider the film naïve and misleading and without any scientific foundation. At one point there is a comparison of radiation burns from a nuclear blast to bad sunburn. Why was the information considered accurate and appropriate in the early 1950's?

The information presented was in accordance with scientific knowledge at the time - we now know much more info about atomic bombs.

The Cold War
The Cuban Missile Crisis

KEY

Origins: Fidel Castro led a revolution that set up a Communist state in Cuba

*Dealing with Castro would be left to a new President named John F. Kennedy

Bay of Pigs Invasion

*The Soviet Union began supplying Cuba with large amounts of aid.

*Growing ties between the Soviet Union & Cuba worried American officials.

Why are American officials worried?

- 1) Spread of Communism
- 2) Soviet Union is a Superpower
- 3) Cuba is located 90 miles off coast of Florida

*1961- Kennedy approved plan for Cuban exiles to overthrow Castro.

*It was evident from the first hours of fighting, however, that the exiles were likely to lose. President Kennedy had the option of using the U.S. Air Force against the Cubans but decided against it.

Consequently, the invasion was stopped by Castro's Army

*Bay of Pigs invasion strengthened Castro in Cuba and embarrassed the United States.

*Additionally, the invasion made Castro wary of the U.S. He was convinced that the Americans would try to take over the island again. From the Bay of Pigs on, Castro had an increased fear of a U.S. incursion on Cuban soil.

Cuban Missile Crisis:

*After the Bay of Pigs invasion, Soviet Union gave Cuba more Weapons

*October 1962: Pres. Kennedy learned that the Soviets were secretly building missile bases on the island.

*If successful, ATOMIC missiles could reach the U.S. within minutes

*Kennedy announced that American Warships will STOP any Soviet ship carrying missiles

*Soviet Union sent ships, where there was a stand off between them and the US. Soviet ships turned around and returned to the East.

*Kennedy's strong stand led the Soviets to a Compromise. They agreed to remove missiles from Cuba.

*In return, the US promised not to invade the island.

*The Cuban Missile Crisis had shaken both American and Soviet officials.

*IN ALL THE YEARS OF THE COLD WAR, THIS WAS THE CLOSEST THE WORLD CAME TO A FULL SCALE NUCLEAR WAR

KEY

Cold War – Vietnam

Pages 827-831



1. Vietnam was a colony of what European nation?

France

2. What was the United States goal in Vietnam?

Prevent the spread of communism (if it became communist other countries may become communist)

3. Who was Ho Chi Minh? What did he want for Vietnam?

He was the leader of the Vietnamese Indep. League + founder of Vietnam Communist Party - he wanted to reunite Vietnam under communism

4. What was the Domino Theory?

The theory was a belief that the falling of one country to communism would result in other surrounding countries falling to

5. Describe the division of Vietnam? (who controlled the sides, where was it divided)

North → communist - Ho Chi Minh

South → non-communist (It was divided at 17th parallel)

6. Who were the Vietcong?

Challenged the S. Vietnamese gov't. for control leading to a ~~civil~~ civil war

7. Why did Congress agree to send in troops to Vietnam in August 1964?

8. The United States troops had the best equipped and most advanced army in the world. Despite this they faced 2 major difficulties, what were they?

9. Why did President Nixon begin withdrawing troops in 1969?

10. When did the last forces leave Vietnam?

11. What happened after the United States left Vietnam?

12. Describe postwar Vietnam?