



# What If... Alternate History

## A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

1. If you could change one event in history, what would it be?
2. Do you think small changes in the past can change the future?
3. What historical event do you wish you could witness?
4. Would the world be better or worse if history were different?
5. Do you enjoy movies or books about alternate history? Why?

## B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

Match the words with their meanings. Check again after reading on page 2.

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. timeline      | a) different from the usual or original                    |
| ___ 2. alternate     | b) a series of events in the order they happened           |
| ___ 3. consequence   | c) imagined or possible, not real                          |
| ___ 4. empire        | d) an official agreement between countries                 |
| ___ 5. revolution    | e) a change in government, often using force               |
| ___ 6. treaty        | f) a group of countries or regions controlled by one ruler |
| ___ 7. collapse      | g) a friend or supporter, especially in war                |
| ___ 8. invade        | h) the sudden failure or end of something                  |
| ___ 9. ally          | i) to enter another country by force                       |
| ___ 10. hypothetical | j) a result or effect of an action                         |

## READING



1. Alternate history asks a simple but powerful question: What if things had happened differently? Writers and historians imagine new timelines where key events change. For example, what if the printing press had never been invented, or if a famous battle had ended the other way? These ideas help us think about how much one event can shape the world.
2. One popular example is imagining what would have happened if a major empire had never collapsed. Would technology have developed faster or slower? Would borders look the same today? While these scenarios are hypothetical, they show us how connected events in history really are.
3. Thinking about alternate history is not just fun; it can also help us understand cause and consequence. By exploring different possibilities, we learn more about why things happened the way they did and how small changes might have led to a completely different present.

## COMPREHENSION

1. What is alternate history?
2. Give one example of an alternate history idea.
3. Why do people imagine different timelines?
4. What can alternate history teach us about cause and consequence?
5. Are alternate history scenarios real or hypothetical?

## VOCABULARY REVIEW

Complete the sentences

1. The book shows a different \_\_\_\_\_ where the war never happened.
2. He studied the \_\_\_\_\_ effects of climate change.
3. The ancient \_\_\_\_\_ ruled for hundreds of years.
4. The two countries signed a peace \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The building's \_\_\_\_\_ surprised everyone.
6. They planned to \_\_\_\_\_ the neighboring country.
7. The two nations became strong \_\_\_\_\_ during the war.
8. This is just a \_\_\_\_\_ situation, not real.
9. The leader's death caused the \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom.
10. The people started a \_\_\_\_\_ to change the government.

## GRAMMAR REVIEW - THIRD CONDITIONAL

Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

1. If the empire \_\_\_\_\_ (not collapse), it would have controlled more land.
2. If the treaty \_\_\_\_\_ (be) signed, the war would have ended earlier.
3. They would have won the battle if they \_\_\_\_\_ (have) more soldiers.
4. If the leader \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to advice, the country would have been stronger.
5. If the invention \_\_\_\_\_ (not happen), life would have been very different.
6. Borders would have changed if the king \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) to fight.
7. If the allies \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) sooner, they would have helped more.
8. The revolution would have failed if people \_\_\_\_\_ (not protest).
9. If they \_\_\_\_\_ (study) history more, they would have known the risks.
10. The city \_\_\_\_\_ (be) richer if trade had continued.

## DISCUSSION

1. Which historical event would you change?
2. Do you think small changes can lead to big differences in history? Why or why not?