**Lesson Plan - ARP\_MakingPlans\_G3-5 - 10/21/2024**

**Summary:**

In this informational e-book, Megan M. Gunderson describes John F. Kennedy's plans and actions as President of the United States, focusing on his domestic and foreign policies during crucial moments of the Cold War. She employs clear and factual language to convey the complexities of Kennedy's leadership, including efforts to address civil rights and confront the threat of Communism.

**Tags:**

John F. Kennedy; Cold War; Cuban Missile Crisis; civil rights; space program

**Glossed Text:**

Making Plans (excerpt from John F. Kennedy)

By Megan M. Gunderson, Abdo Publishing

John F. Kennedy became President of the United States on January 20, 1961. He had many plans when he took office. These included programs for higher wages and aid for people experiencing \*poverty\*. He also hoped to improve \*civil rights\*.

During this time, America was part of the \*Cold War\* with the \*Soviet Union\*. Another plan was to put a person on the moon before the \*Communist\* Soviet Union did. As a result, Kennedy greatly improved the US \*space program\*.

\*Relationships\* with other countries were another concern for Kennedy. American officials wanted to stop the spread of \*Communism\*. So, they trained a group of \*Cubans\* to overthrow Cuba’s \*Communist\* leader. In 1961, the group invaded Cuba at the \*Bay of Pigs\*. However, the effort failed.

Then, in 1962, \*Communist\* China invaded \*India\*. Kennedy sent weapons to India’s army. Meanwhile, South Vietnam was fighting \*Communist\* North Vietnam. Kennedy sent thousands of US military \*advisers\* to help the South Vietnamese.

In October 1962, Kennedy learned \*nuclear\* missile bases were being built in Cuba. He wanted to stop \*Soviet\* ships from bringing supplies there. So, Kennedy stated that the US Navy would block Cuba’s \*coast\*.

The \*Soviet\* leader said his country would guard its shipping rights. A \*nuclear\* war could begin. But Kennedy held his ground. The \*Soviet\* ships stayed away from the blocked area. Kennedy won the \*showdown\*! This event became known as the \*Cuban Missile Crisis\*.

**Vocabulary Words:**

poverty (noun): the state of being extremely poor

civil rights (noun): the rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality

Cold War (proper noun): the period of geopolitical tension between the Soviet Union and the United States after World War II

Soviet Union (proper noun): a former federation of communist republics that existed from 1922 to 1991

Communist (proper adjective): relating to a political ideology advocating for the common ownership of production, often associated with the Communist Party

space program (noun): a government-funded initiative focused on the exploration of outer space

Relationships (noun): the way in which two or more people or groups regard and behave toward each other

Communism (proper noun): a political and economic ideology advocating for a classless system in which the means of production are owned communally

Cubans (proper noun): the people of Cuba

Bay of Pigs (proper noun): the site of a failed military invasion of Cuba by exiled Cuban fighters in 1961

Communist (proper adjective): relating to a political ideology advocating for the common ownership of production, often associated with the Communist Party

India (proper noun): a country in South Asia

Communist (proper adjective): relating to a political ideology advocating for the common ownership of production, often associated with the Communist Party

North Vietnam (proper noun): a former state in Southeast Asia that existed from 1954 to 1976

advisers (noun): people who offer suggestions about the best course of action

nuclear (adjective): relating to the nucleus of an atom or to nuclear energy, weapons, or reactions

Soviet (proper adjective): relating to the Soviet Union

coast (noun): the area where land meets the sea

Soviet (proper adjective): relating to the Soviet Union

showdown (noun): a decisive confrontation or contest

Cuban Missile Crisis (proper noun): a 13-day confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1962 over Soviet ballistic missiles deployed in Cuba

**Multiple Choice Questions:**

1. What was one of John F. Kennedy's main plans upon becoming president during the Cold War?

A. To end the Cold War immediately

B. To improve civil rights and increase wages

C. To focus solely on domestic policies

D. To disband the military

[CCSS.RI.4.1; TEKS.ELAR.4.7(C)]

2. How did Kennedy respond to the threat of Communism in Cuba?

A. By supporting the Cuban government

B. By attempting to invade Cuba with trained Cubans

C. By ignoring the situation

D. By increasing trade with Cuba

[CCSS.RI.3.1; TEKS.ELAR.3.7(C)]

3. What significant event in 1962 showcased the tension between the US and the Soviet Union?

A. The signing of a peace treaty

B. The Cuban Missile Crisis

C. The Apollo 11 moon landing

D. The Bay of Pigs invasion

[CCSS.RI.5.1; TEKS.ELAR.5.7(C)]

4. What was Kennedy's goal regarding the space race?

A. To prove the Soviet Union's superiority

B. To reach the moon before the Soviet Union

C. To collaborate with the Soviet Union on space missions

D. To abandon the space program entirely

[CCSS.RI.3.1; TEKS.ELAR.3.7(C)]

5. What was the outcome of the Cuban Missile Crisis for the United States?

A. The US lost the trust of its allies

B. The US successfully prevented nuclear missiles from being stationed in Cuba

C. The US initiated a nuclear war

D. The US apologized to the Soviet Union

[CCSS.RI.4.1; TEKS.ELAR.4.7(C)]