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

**Summary:**

In this informational e-book, Megan M. Gunderson describes the plans and challenges faced by John F. Kennedy during his presidency through a detailed overview of significant domestic and international events. The text outlines Kennedy's aims concerning civil rights, the space race, and his responses to the Cold War tensions, including the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**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, encompassing much of Eastern Europe and Northern Asia.

Communist (proper adjective): relating to or supporting the political ideology of communism.

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.

overthrow (verb): to remove forcibly from power.

weapons (noun): instruments used for causing harm or destruction.

Communist (proper adjective): relating to or supporting the political ideology of communism.

Missile (proper noun): a self-propelled weapon that is designed to be launched and cause destruction.

shipping (noun): the act of transporting goods and cargo.

blocked (adjective): obstructed or impeded to prevent passage.

showdown (noun): a decisive confrontation or test.

Missile Crisis (proper noun): a tense 13-day confrontation in October 1962 between the United States and the Soviet Union over the presence of missile sites in Cuba.

**Multiple Choice Questions:**

1. What was one of John F. Kennedy's goals when he became President during the Cold War?

A. To end all military engagements

B. To launch an attack on the Soviet Union

C. To put a person on the moon before the Soviet Union

D. To abolish the military

[CCSS.RI.4.1; TEKS.ELAR.4.7(C); BEST.ELA.K12.EE.3.1]

2. How did the United States attempt to counteract the spread of Communism in Cuba during Kennedy's presidency?

A. By establishing diplomatic relations

B. By training Cubans to overthrow their leader

C. By sending aid to the Communist government

D. By ignoring the situation entirely

[CCSS.RI.3.1; TEKS.ELAR.3.7(C); CCSS.RI.5.1]

3. What prompted Kennedy to send weapons to India in 1962?

A. India was seeking independence from British rule

B. Communist China invaded India

C. The United Nations requested assistance

D. India joined the Soviet bloc

[CCSS.RI.4.1; TEKS.ELAR.4.7(C); CCSS.RI.3.1]

4. What was the immediate response by Kennedy to the threat of Soviet nuclear missile bases in Cuba?

A. To engage in a full military assault

B. To negotiate a peace treaty with the Soviet Union

C. To block Cuba's coast with the US Navy

D. To evacuate US citizens from Cuba

[CCSS.RI.5.1; TEKS.ELAR.5.7(C); BEST.ELA.K12.EE.3.1]

5. The success of Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis demonstrated which aspect of Cold War international relations?

A. The importance of military power

B. The effectiveness of communication between superpowers

C. The possible escalation to nuclear conflict

D. The potential for peaceful resolutions

[CCSS.RI.4.1; TEKS.ELAR.4.7(C); BEST.ELA.K12.EE.3.1]