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

**Summary:**

In this informational e-book, Megan M. Gunderson describes the key plans and actions of President John F. Kennedy during his time in office, using straightforward language to highlight his domestic initiatives and foreign policies. The narrative details significant events, including the Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis, illustrating Kennedy's leadership amid the Cold War.

**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 state of political hostility between the Soviet Union and the United States and their respective allies

Soviet Union (proper noun): a former federal socialist state in northern Eurasia that existed from 1922 to 1991

Communist (proper adjective): relating to a political ideology characterized by collectivism and the absence of social classes

relationships (noun): the way in which two or more concepts, objects, or people are connected

Communism (proper noun): a political and economic ideology advocating for a classless society in which all property is publicly owned

overthrow (verb): to remove forcibly from power

Bay of Pigs (proper noun): a failed military invasion of Cuba undertaken by the United States in April 1961

Communist (proper adjective): relating to a political ideology characterized by collectivism and the absence of social classes

nuclear (adjective): relating to the nucleus of an atom, particularly in reference to nuclear power or weapons

advisers (noun): individuals who provide advice or guidance

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

**Multiple Choice Questions:**

1. What was one of John F. Kennedy's priorities when he became President of the United States in 1961?

A. To end the Cold War

B. To improve civil rights

C. To form an alliance with the Soviet Union

D. To abolish all military programs

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

2. How did the Bay of Pigs invasion reflect the international relations strategy of the United States during the Cold War?

A. It aimed to promote democracy in Latin America.

B. It was an attempt to prevent the spread of communism in Cuba.

C. It facilitated closer ties with the Soviet Union.

D. It demonstrated the US's commitment to non-intervention.

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

3. What event demonstrated the heightened tensions between the US and the Soviet Union during Kennedy's presidency?

A. The launch of Sputnik

B. The Berlin Wall construction

C. The Cuban Missile Crisis

D. The Vietnam War

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

4. In what way did Kennedy's response to the Cuban Missile Crisis influence international relations?

A. It encouraged open conflict with the Soviet Union.

B. It resulted in a negotiation that eased Cold War tensions.

C. It increased military aid to Communist nations.

D. It led to the establishment of a military alliance with China.

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

5. What role did space exploration play in the context of Cold War international relations?

A. It distracted the public from social issues.

B. It was a means for the US to demonstrate technological superiority over the Soviet Union.

C. It allowed for greater cooperation between the US and the Soviet Union.

D. It was unrelated to the political tensions of the time.

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