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

**Summary:**

In this informational e-book, Megan M. Gunderson describes the key events and plans of John F. Kennedy's presidency through a straightforward presentation of historical facts and decisions. The article covers various aspects, including domestic policies, the space race, and foreign relations during the Cold War.

**Tags:**

John F. Kennedy; Cold War; Cuban Missile Crisis; civil rights; US 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 (common noun): the state of being extremely poor

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

cold war (proper noun): the state of political hostility between countries characterized by threats, propaganda, and other measures short of open warfare

soviet union (proper noun): a former federal socialist state in Eastern Europe and Northern Asia that existed from 1922 to 1991

communist (proper adjective): relating to a political theory advocating class war and leading to a society in which all property is publicly owned

overthrow (common verb): to remove forcibly from power

bay of pigs (proper noun): a failed military invasion of Cuba undertaken by a CIA-sponsored paramilitary group

communist (proper adjective): relating to a system of government based on the principles of communism

china (proper noun): a country in East Asia

india (proper noun): a country in South Asia

vietnam (proper noun): a country in Southeast Asia

advisers (common noun): people who give advice, especially in a professional context

nuclear (common adjective): relating to the nucleus of an atom; often used in reference to nuclear energy or weapons

soviet (proper adjective): relating to the Soviet Union

showdown (common noun): a decisive confrontation or contest

cuban missile crisis (proper noun): a 13-day confrontation in October 1962 between the United States and the Soviet Union over the installation of nuclear-armed Soviet missiles in Cuba.

**Multiple Choice Questions:**

1. What was one of John F. Kennedy's primary goals during the Cold War?

A. To increase funding for education

B. To stop the spread of Communism

C. To strengthen the military in Europe

D. To improve agricultural policies

[CCSS.RI.3.1; TEKS.ELAR.3.7(C); BEST.ELA.K12.EE.3.1]

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

A. It demonstrated US support for democracy in Cuba.

B. It highlighted the failure of US efforts to contain Communism.

C. It showed the strength of the Soviet influence in the Americas.

D. It resulted in a peaceful resolution with Cuba.

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

3. What action did Kennedy take in response to the nuclear missile crisis in Cuba?

A. He initiated peace talks with the Soviet Union.

B. He sent more troops to Vietnam.

C. He blocked Soviet ships from reaching Cuba.

D. He withdrew all US military forces from the region.

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

4. In what way did the Cold War influence Kennedy's space program ambitions?

A. It diminished funding for space exploration.

B. It increased investment to outpace the Soviet Union.

C. It led to a partnership with Soviet scientists.

D. It halted all space missions until conflicts resolved.

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

5. Which event is considered a pivotal moment in Kennedy's presidency regarding Cold War tensions?

A. The invasion of Cuba by Cuban exiles

B. The establishment of the Peace Corps

C. The Cuban Missile Crisis

D. The signing of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

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