**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 President John F. Kennedy during his time in office, detailing his initiatives related to civil rights, foreign relations, and the space race. The author employs a straightforward narrative style to convey key historical events and decisions that defined Kennedy's presidency.

**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 (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 political tension between the Soviet Union and the United States from 1947 to 1991.

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

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

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.

Communist (proper adjective): pertaining to, characteristic of, or supporting communism or the Communist Party.

weapons (noun): instruments used for fighting or defense.

nuclear (adjective): relating to the nucleus of an atom, often used in the context of weapons.

supplies (noun): the things that are needed for a particular purpose or to meet demands.

Soviet (proper adjective): relating to the former Soviet Union.

nuclear (adjective): relating to atomic energy or weapons.

showdown (noun): a decisive confrontation or contest between opponents.

**Multiple Choice Questions:**

1. What was a key international concern for President Kennedy during the Cold War?

A. To establish peace treaties with Communist countries

B. To stop the spread of Communism

C. To decrease military spending

D. To improve climate relations

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

2. How did President Kennedy's actions in the Cuban Missile Crisis illustrate the tensions of the Cold War?

A. He increased economic aid to developing countries.

B. He used military force to invade Cuba.

C. He blockaded Cuba to prevent Soviet supplies from reaching missile sites.

D. He negotiated a peace agreement with the Soviet Union.

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

3. What was one effect of the United States' efforts to counteract Communism during Kennedy's presidency?

A. Increased cooperation with the Soviet Union

B. The successful overthrow of Cuba's Communist government

C. The deployment of US military advisers to South Vietnam

D. The decline of the US space program

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

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

A. It aimed to support the Soviet space missions.

B. It was an effort to demonstrate technological superiority over the Soviet Union.

C. It included plans to share technology with Communist countries.

D. It focused solely on peaceful exploration without military implications.

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

5. Which event is an example of Kennedy's direct response to the threat of Communism during the Cold War?

A. The launch of the Apollo mission

B. The blockade of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis

C. The signing of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

D. The establishment of the Peace Corps

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