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

**Summary:**

In this informational e-book, Megan M. Gunderson describes the geopolitical challenges and domestic initiatives faced by President John F. Kennedy during his administration. Through the use of factual language and historical detail, the author outlines Kennedy's plans for civil rights, space exploration, and international relations amidst the tensions of the Cold War.

**Tags:**

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

**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): a state of political hostility between countries characterized by threats, propaganda, and other measures short of open warfare, particularly between the US and the Soviet Union after World War II.

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

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

space (noun): the physical universe beyond the earth's atmosphere.

relationships (noun): the way in which two or more people or groups regard and behave towards each other.

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

Bay of Pigs (proper noun): a failed invasion of Cuba by Cuban exiles backed by the US in April 1961.

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

India (proper noun): a country in South Asia.

army (noun): a large organized body of armed personnel trained for war.

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

North Vietnam (proper noun): the Northern part of Vietnam, known for its communist government during the Vietnam War.

advisers (noun): people who provide advice, typically in a professional context.

nuclear (adjective): relating to the nucleus of an atom, often associated with atomic energy or weapons.

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

**Multiple Choice Questions:**

1. How did John F. Kennedy's presidency reflect the international tensions of the Cold War?

A. By focusing solely on domestic issues without concern for foreign affairs.

B. By increasing military support to countries resisting Communism.

C. By promoting trade agreements with the Soviet Union.

D. By withdrawing all military forces from Vietnam.

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

2. What was one significant outcome of the Cuban Missile Crisis during Kennedy's presidency?

A. It ended the Cold War immediately.

B. It led to a direct military invasion of Cuba by the United States.

C. It demonstrated the U.S. resolve to confront Soviet expansion.

D. It resulted in the establishment of peaceful relations between the U.S. and Soviet Union.

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

3. Why did Kennedy send military advisers to South Vietnam during the Cold War?

A. To reduce tensions with North Vietnam.

B. To promote democracy in the region.

C. To help the South Vietnamese resist Communist influence.

D. To prepare for an invasion of North Vietnam.

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

4. How did the Bay of Pigs invasion reflect U.S. foreign policy objectives at the time?

A. It showed U.S. willingness to negotiate with Communist governments.

B. It indicated a desire to eliminate Communist governments in the Western Hemisphere.

C. It highlighted the importance of diplomacy over military action.

D. It demonstrated a lack of interest in Latin American affairs.

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

5. What was a key factor that contributed to John F. Kennedy's decision to block Cuban shipments during the missile crisis?

A. The desire to maintain trade relations with the Soviet Union.

B. The need to prove military strength to the American public.

C. The fear of the Soviet Union gaining a strategic advantage in the Americas.

D. The aim to avoid further escalation of tensions with China.

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