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

**Summary:**

In this informational e-book, Megan M. Gunderson describes the plans and actions of President John F. Kennedy during his administration, focusing on his domestic policies, foreign relations, and significant events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis. The article employs straightforward language to present factual information about Kennedy's initiatives, challenges, and international tensions during the Cold War era.

**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 state of political hostility between countries characterized by threats, propaganda, and other measures short of open warfare

Soviet Union (proper noun): a former federation of Communist republics in eastern Europe and northern Asia

Communist (proper adjective): relating to a political system based on the principles of Communism

space program (noun): a program for the development of space exploration and research

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 from power by force

Bay of Pigs (proper noun): an inlet of the Gulf of Cochinos on the southern coast of Cuba, known for the failed invasion in 1961

Communist (proper adjective): relating to a political system based on the principles of Communism

weapons (noun): instruments used for causing harm or damage

Vietnam (proper noun): a country in Southeast Asia

Communist (proper adjective): relating to a political system based on the principles of Communism

advisers (noun): people who provide advice, typically in a specialized field

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

supplies (noun): items or resources needed for a particular purpose

shipping (noun): the act of transporting goods

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

showdown (noun): a decisive confrontation or contest

Cuban Missile Crisis (proper noun): the 1962 confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union regarding missile deployment in Cuba

**Multiple Choice Questions:**

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

A. To initiate a direct military conflict with the Soviet Union

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

C. To promote the spread of Communism in space exploration

D. To abandon American space missions entirely

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

2. How did the U.S. respond to the threat of Communism in Cuba during Kennedy's presidency?

A. By forming an alliance with the Communist leader of Cuba

B. By training Cuban exiles to overthrow the government

C. By withdrawing all military support from Latin America

D. By ignoring the situation entirely

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

3. In what way did the Cuban Missile Crisis impact Kennedy's international relationships?

A. It weakened the United States' position in the Cold War

B. It solidified Kennedy's reputation as a strong leader in international affairs

C. It caused an immediate end to the Cold War

D. It resulted in a military alliance with the Soviet Union

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

4. What action did Kennedy take in response to the discovery of nuclear missiles in Cuba?

A. He launched an attack on Cuba

B. He called for immediate peace talks with the Soviet Union

C. He ordered the U.S. Navy to block Cuba's coast

D. He decided to withdraw U.S. troops from Vietnam

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

5. Which event indicated the heightened tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union during Kennedy's presidency?

A. The successful landing of a U.S. spacecraft on the moon

B. The failed invasion at the Bay of Pigs

C. The construction of the Berlin Wall

D. The signing of nuclear disarmament treaties

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