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

**Summary:**

In this informational e-book, Megan M. Gunderson describes the key initiatives and challenges faced by President John F. Kennedy during his administration through a detailed examination of historical events and policies. The text outlines Kennedy's domestic agenda, foreign relations, and pivotal moments such as the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**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): a 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 that existed from 1922 to 1991.

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

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

Communism (proper noun): a political and economic ideology based on communal ownership and the absence of social classes.

Cubans (proper noun): people from Cuba.

overthrow (verb): to remove forcibly from power.

Bay of Pigs (proper noun): a failed invasion of Cuba by Cuban exiles in 1961, undertaken with U.S. government support.

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

nuclear (adjective): relating to the nucleus of an atom; involving the release of atomic energy.

advisers (noun): individuals who provide advice, especially in a professional context.

South Vietnam (proper noun): a former state in Southeast Asia that existed from 1955 to 1975.

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

North Vietnam (proper noun): a former state in Southeast Asia that existed from 1945 to 1976.

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

**Multiple Choice Questions:**

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

A. Improving agriculture in the United States

B. Stopping the spread of Communism

C. Establishing free trade agreements

D. Increasing investment in Europe

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

2. How did the United States respond to the Communist threat in Cuba?

A. It established diplomatic relations with Cuba.

B. It trained a group of Cubans to overthrow the Communist leader.

C. It increased trade with Cuba.

D. It sent economic aid to Cuba.

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

3. What event is referred to as a pivotal moment during John F. Kennedy's presidency related to the Cold War?

A. The launch of the Apollo space program

B. The Bay of Pigs invasion

C. The assassination of a leader

D. The signing of a nuclear treaty

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

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

A. He initiated air strikes on Cuba.

B. He created a military alliance with Russia.

C. He blockaded Cuba with the US Navy.

D. He ordered troops to invade Cuba.

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

5. What was one result of Kennedy's decision during the Cuban Missile Crisis?

A. The immediate withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam

B. A significant increase in US-Soviet trade agreements

C. An avoidance of nuclear conflict and a retreat by Soviet ships

D. The establishment of a permanent military base in Cuba

[CCSS.RI.3.1; BEST.ELA.K12.EE.3.1]