**Lesson Plan - ARP\_MakingPlans\_G3-5 - 10/23/2024**

**Summary:**

In this informational e-book, Megan M. Gunderson describes the presidency of John F. Kennedy and his various plans and actions during a pivotal time in American history through a detailed examination of significant events and foreign relations. The text addresses Kennedy's domestic initiatives and challenges, as well as his handling of international tensions, particularly the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Tags:**

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

Cold War (proper noun): a period of geopolitical tension between the Soviet Union and the United States after World War II.

Soviet Union (proper noun): a former socialist country in Eastern Europe and Northern Asia.

Communist (proper adjective): relating to or advocating for communism.

space program (noun): a program or initiative designed to explore or utilize outer space.

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

Bay of Pigs (proper noun): a failed military invasion of Cuba undertaken by the CIA in 1961.

Communist (proper adjective): relating to or advocating for communism.

weapons (noun): tools or instruments used for fighting or in combat.

Communist (proper adjective): relating to or advocating for communism.

nuclear (adjective): relating to the nucleus of an atom or to atomic energy.

supplies (noun): items that are necessary for a particular purpose.

nuclear (adjective): relating to the nucleus of an atom or to atomic energy.

showdown (noun): a decisive confrontation or contest.

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

**Multiple Choice Questions:**

1. What was one of John F. Kennedy's major plans upon taking office during the Cold War?

A. To withdraw all US troops from Europe

B. To improve the US space program and land a person on the moon

C. To establish a peace treaty with the Soviet Union

D. To increase tariffs on foreign goods

[CCSS.RI.4.1; TEKS.ELAR.4.7(C); BEST.ELA.K12.EE.3.1]

2. How did the United States respond to the threat of Communism in Cuba under Kennedy's administration?

A. By ignoring the situation in Cuba completely

B. By launching an open war against Soviet Union

C. By training Cubans to overthrow the Communist government

D. By negotiating peace with the Communist leader

[CCSS.RI.5.1; TEKS.ELAR.5.7(C); BEST.ELA.K12.EE.3.1]

3. Which event highlighted the tension between the United States and the Soviet Union regarding nuclear weapons?

A. The signing of the Treaty of Versailles

B. The Bay of Pigs invasion

C. The Cuban Missile Crisis

D. The Marshall Plan

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

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

A. He chose to negotiate with Soviet leaders for their removal

B. He ordered the military to invade Cuba immediately

C. He established a naval blockade to prevent supplies from reaching Cuba

D. He withdrew American troops from Cuba

[CCSS.RI.4.1; TEKS.ELAR.4.7(C); BEST.ELA.K12.EE.3.1]

5. What was a consequence of the Cold War on international relations, as reflected in Kennedy's policies?

A. Increased cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union

B. A focus on domestic issues over international concerns

C. Heightened military involvement in countries threatened by Communism

D. Decreased space exploration efforts

[CCSS.RI.5.1; TEKS.ELAR.5.7(C); BEST.ELA.K12.EE.3.1]