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

**Summary:**

In this informational e-book, Megan M. Gunderson describes the key plans and actions of President John F. Kennedy during his administration, highlighting his initiatives in civil rights, the space program, and international relations through concise historical accounts and factual details.

**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 period of geopolitical tension between the Soviet Union and the United States after World War II.
* Soviet Union (proper noun): a former federal socialist state in northern Eurasia that existed from 1922 to 1991.
* Communist (proper adjective): relating to the political and economic ideology of communism.
* space program (noun): a program for the exploration of outer space.
* Communism (proper noun): a political and economic ideology advocating for class war and leading to a society in which all property is publicly owned.
* overthrow (verb): to remove from power, usually by force.
* Bay of Pigs (proper noun): a failed invasion of Cuba in 1961 by Cuban exiles, supported by the U.S. government.
* Communist (proper adjective): relating to or characteristic of communism.
* weapons (noun): tools or instruments used for combat or warfare.
* advisers (noun): individuals who provide advice, typically in a professional context.
* nuclear (adjective): relating to the nucleus of an atom, often used in the context of nuclear energy or weapons.
* showdown (noun): a decisive confrontation or contest.
* Cuban Missile Crisis (proper noun): a 13-day confrontation in October 1962 between the United States and the Soviet Union over nuclear missiles deployed in Cuba.

**Multiple Choice Questions:**

1. What was one of John F. Kennedy's priorities when he became President in 1961?

A. To reduce military presence in Vietnam

B. To improve civil rights

C. To decrease space exploration

D. To strengthen ties with the Soviet Union

[CCSS.RI.3.1; TEKS.ELAR.3.7(C); BEST.ELA.K12.EE.3.1; CCSS.RI.4.1; TEKS.ELAR.4.7(C); CCSS.RI.5.1; TEKS.ELAR.5.7(C)]

2. How did Kennedy respond to the spread of Communism in Cuba?

A. By establishing a peaceful negotiation

B. By training a group of Cubans to invade Cuba

C. By withdrawing all American forces

D. By forming an alliance with the Soviets

[CCSS.RI.3.1; TEKS.ELAR.3.7(C); BEST.ELA.K12.EE.3.1; CCSS.RI.4.1; TEKS.ELAR.4.7(C); CCSS.RI.5.1; TEKS.ELAR.5.7(C)]

3. Which event is described as a significant point of crisis during Kennedy's presidency?

A. The Bay of Pigs invasion

B. The Apollo 11 moon landing

C. The Cuban Missile Crisis

D. The Vietnam War escalation

[CCSS.RI.3.1; TEKS.ELAR.3.7(C); BEST.ELA.K12.EE.3.1; CCSS.RI.4.1; TEKS.ELAR.4.7(C); CCSS.RI.5.1; TEKS.ELAR.5.7(C)]

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

A. He launched an immediate attack on Cuba

B. He blockaded Cuba's coast

C. He initiated peace talks with the Soviet Union

D. He ignored the situation entirely

[CCSS.RI.3.1; TEKS.ELAR.3.7(C); BEST.ELA.K12.EE.3.1; CCSS.RI.4.1; TEKS.ELAR.4.7(C); CCSS.RI.5.1; TEKS.ELAR.5.7(C)]

5. What was one consequence of America's actions during the Cold War, as indicated in the article?

A. Strengthened relations with Communist countries

B. Increased cooperation among NATO members

C. Escalation of military involvement in Vietnam

D. A decline in US technological advancements

[CCSS.RI.3.1; TEKS.ELAR.3.7(C); BEST.ELA.K12.EE.3.1; CCSS.RI.4.1; TEKS.ELAR.4.7(C); CCSS.RI.5.1; TEKS.ELAR.5.7(C)]