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

**Summary:**

In this informational e-book, Megan M. Gunderson describes the key plans and challenges faced by John F. Kennedy during his presidency through factual language and historical context. The text covers his domestic agenda, Cold War strategies, and significant events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis, providing a comprehensive overview of his leadership.

**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): the period of political tension and military rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union after World War II.

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

Communist (proper adjective): relating to or characterized by the principles of Communism.

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

Cuba (proper noun): a country located in the Caribbean.

Bay of Pigs (proper noun): a failed military invasion of Cuba undertaken by a CIA-sponsored paramilitary group in 1961.

weapons (noun): instruments of combat or to kill.

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

advisers (noun): individuals who provide advice.

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

**Multiple Choice Questions:**

1. How did President Kennedy's approach to the Cold War influence international relations?

A. It promoted peace talks with the Soviet Union.

B. It focused solely on domestic issues.

C. It involved military actions to counter Communism.

D. It isolated the U.S. from foreign conflicts.

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

2. What was one major consequence of the failed Bay of Pigs invasion?

A. Strengthened U.S. relations with Cuba.

B. Increased fears about Soviet expansion.

C. Encouraged more U.S. military interventions.

D. Led to immediate peace negotiations.

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

3. In what way did the Cuban Missile Crisis showcase the tense relationship between the U.S. and the Soviet Union?

A. It resulted in the removal of all nuclear weapons.

B. It highlighted the willingness of both countries to engage in military conflict.

C. It led to an immediate end of the Cold War.

D. It established a permanent peace agreement.

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

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

A. He launched a preemptive strike against the Soviet Union.

B. He initiated a naval blockade to prevent supplies from reaching Cuba.

C. He sought a diplomatic resolution through the United Nations.

D. He withdrew all military advisers from Vietnam.

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

5. How did Kennedy's presidency reflect the broader struggles of the Cold War?

A. It was primarily focused on social reform within the U.S.

B. It ignored international conflicts in favor of economic growth.

C. It depicted the global effort to contain and respond to Communism.

D. It marked the end of military involvement in foreign nations.

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