Mapping the Cold War

Read about containment and locate communist countries.

SS24.5.13 "Summarize why the United States sought to contain communism during the Cold War, and locate major communist countries from the Cold War era on a map."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the names of four communist countries, underline one reason the United States feared the spread of communism, and number two actions it took to limit that spread.

A Plan to Stop the Spread

1 After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union became rivals. Soviet leaders supported communist governments, where one party held power and the government controlled much of the economy. Many Americans feared that more countries would lose the freedom to choose their leaders. The United States called its plan to stop communism from spreading *containment*. The goal was to help countries stay independent without starting another world war.

2 A Cold War map shows why this struggle reached far beyond one border. The Soviet Union stretched across eastern Europe and northern Asia. China, in eastern Asia, became communist in 1949. Cuba, an island in the Caribbean Sea just south of Florida, became a communist country in the early 1960s. These places were far apart, so United States leaders watched events in Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

3 Containment did not mean attacking every communist country. The United States sent money to help rebuild countries in Western Europe after the war. Leaders hoped that stable countries would be less likely to turn to communism. In 1950, when communist North Korea invaded South Korea, the United States joined a United Nations force to defend South Korea. Both actions aimed to limit the spread of communism.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did many Americans want to stop communism from spreading?

2. Where would you look for the Soviet Union and China on a Cold War map?

3. Where would you look for Cuba on a map? Name the sea and a nearby U.S. state.

4. How did rebuilding Western Europe and defending South Korea both support containment?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In the box, sketch a simple map showing North America, Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean. Place and label the Soviet Union, China, and Cuba, then write one sentence explaining why the United States tried to contain communism.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · SS24.5.13

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the names of four communist countries, underline one reason the United States feared the spread of communism, and number two actions it took to limit that spread. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did many Americans want to stop communism from spreading?	**They feared that people in more countries would lose the freedom to choose their leaders.**
2	Where would you look for the Soviet Union and China on a Cold War map?	**The Soviet Union stretched across eastern Europe and northern Asia. China was in eastern Asia.**
3	Where would you look for Cuba on a map? Name the sea and a nearby U.S. state.	**Cuba is in the Caribbean Sea, just south of Florida.**
4	How did rebuilding Western Europe and defending South Korea both support containment?	**Rebuilding helped countries stay stable and less likely to turn to communism. Defending South Korea helped stop communist North Korea from taking it over.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sketch labels: Soviet Union across eastern Europe and northern Asia; China in eastern Asia; Cuba in the Caribbean south of Florida. Sentence: The United States tried to contain communism because it feared that people in more countries would lose the freedom to choose their leaders.

Accept rough map shapes if the three countries are placed in the correct regions. For the sentence, accept a clear explanation that containment aimed to prevent communism from spreading.