

Iron Curtain Clues

Trace where the term came from and what it meant during the Cold War.

SS5H5.a "Explain the origin and meaning of the term "Iron Curtain.""

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that tells who spoke and when, then circle two details that explain what the Iron Curtain separated.

A Curtain Across Europe

- ① After World War II, conflict grew between the Soviet Union and the United States and its allies. On March 5, 1946, former British prime minister Winston Churchill spoke in Fulton, Missouri. He said, "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent." People had used the words earlier, but his speech made the Cold War meaning famous.
- ② Churchill did not mean a real curtain made of metal. He used the image of a hard curtain to describe a political and economic division. In much of Eastern Europe, Soviet-supported governments held power. The Soviet Union limited free elections and controlled information and travel. Western European nations had different governments and closer ties to the United States.
- ③ The phrase Iron Curtain became a common name for the boundary between Soviet-controlled Eastern Europe and the democratic countries of Western Europe. It symbolized the Cold War, a long struggle without direct war between the two superpowers. The boundary was not one exact line, but barriers and controls separated many people. In 1989, many Eastern European communist governments fell, and the division began to end.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Who made the phrase "Iron Curtain" famous in its Cold War meaning, and how did he do it?

2 Why was the Iron Curtain not a real curtain made of metal?

3 What two parts of Europe did the term Iron Curtain describe as separated?

4 Name two ways Soviet control helped create the division described by the term.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In exactly three sentences, explain the origin and meaning of the term Iron Curtain to a student who has never heard it. Include one detail that shows how the division affected people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that tells who spoke and when, then circle two details that explain what the Iron Curtain separated. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who made the phrase “Iron Curtain” famous in its Cold War meaning, and how did he do it?	Winston Churchill made it famous by using it in a speech in Fulton, Missouri, on March 5, 1946.
2	Why was the Iron Curtain not a real curtain made of metal?	It was an image for a political and economic division in Europe.
3	What two parts of Europe did the term Iron Curtain describe as separated?	It described the separation between Soviet-controlled Eastern Europe and the democratic countries of Western Europe.
4	Name two ways Soviet control helped create the division described by the term.	The Soviet Union limited free elections and controlled information and travel.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Churchill used the term Iron Curtain in a 1946 speech in Fulton, Missouri. He meant that Soviet influence separated much of Eastern Europe from Western Europe. The term also suggests the limits on information and travel faced by many people.

Accept equivalent descriptions of Churchill's 1946 speech and the political division between Soviet-controlled Eastern Europe and Western Europe. For the open response, look for three sentences that include the term's Cold War origin, its meaning, and a supported effect such as limits on travel, information, or free elections.